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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Parliamentary Union Begins Meetings 18 Jun

JN1806134389 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The meetings of the 19th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] began at Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel this morning under the chairmanship of Slaheddine Baly, APU chairman and speaker of the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies, in the presence of 15 Arab parliamentary bodies.

Slaheddine Baly delivered a speech in which he welcomed the holding of the APU meetings on the territory of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He voiced his thanks and appreciation to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, for hosting these meetings. He also welcomed the gathering of Arabs in this meeting and blessed on behalf of the Arab parliamentarians the cohesion among Arab states as well as the clearing of atmospheres among these states. He paid tribute to the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit in Casablanca last month—resolutions that will have a positive effect on the meetings of Arab parliamentarians.

The APU chairman affirmed that the APU will spare no effort for cooperation in drawing up a joint policy that will serve Arab interests in the face of the current international challenges and groupings. He called for initiating a unified Arab action that will serve pan-Arab interests to achieve the objectives being pursued by the Arab peoples. He welcomed on behalf of the APU the reinstatement of the Egyptian parliamentary body under the chairmanship of Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub to the APU Council and conference. He also congratulated Al-Mahjub on the resumption by the Egyptian parliamentary body of its activities within the APU.

Baly called upon the General People's Congress in the Libyan Arab Jamihiriyah to participate in the meetings of the conference once such a participation is approved by the APU Council.

Thereafter, Slaheddine Baly asked APU Secretary-General 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Rawi to read out the resolution on transferring the APU chairmanship in its new session to the UAE.

Once the text of the resolution was read out, Slaheddine Baly asked Hilal Ahmad Lutah, speaker of the UAE Federal National Council, to chair the session.

Hilal Ahmad Lutah, speaker of the UAE Federal National Council and APU chairman in its current session, delivered a speech in which he welcomed the delegations attending the APU meetings. He conveyed to them the greetings of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president.

Lutah expressed his thanks to the delegations attending the session of the APU Council for the confidence vested in him, which took the form of asking him to chair the APU in its new session, and beseeched Almighty God to enable the APU Council to realize the aspirations of the Arab nation.

Lutah paid tribute to the efforts by Slaheddine Baly in managing APU affairs throughout his chairmanship term. He also praised the endeavors made in this regard by Rachid Sfar, ex-speaker of the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies, during the period in which he served as the APU chairman.

Concluding his speech, Hilal Ahmad Lutah hoped that the meetings of the APU Council will be crowned with success so to serve the interests of the Arab and Islamic nations.

APU Committee [as heard] Chairman Hilal Lutah gave Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly and chairman of the Egyptian parliamentary body, the chance to make a speech at the request of the latter. In this speech, Dr al-Mahjub affirmed the happiness of the Egyptian People's Assembly's on its return to its place within the APU. Dr al-Mahjub voiced his thanks to all conferees, headed by Hilal Lutah, for this welcome of Egypt's return to its position within this Arab forum. He added: Despite the fact that it was temporarily absent in some forums, Egypt has neither absented itself in the Arab arena nor abandoned any Arab issue. Actually, it followed up its nation's issues displaying resolve, wisdom, and sincerity in various fields, he said. Dr al-Mahjub went on to say: His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak carefully followed up the Arab nation's causes and exerted strenuous efforts to serve these causes, particularly the Palestinian cause, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Lebanese issue. He affirmed that Egypt—president, People's Assembly, government, and people—has not failed for a single moment to serve its Arab nation's causes. He said that Egypt, which has shouldered its responsibilities toward its nation throughout the ages, has remained the same, committed to the shouldering of these responsibilities vis-a-vis each Arab issue and every Arab right. It has always been absent, yet present, he added. It has neither forsaken nor will it forsake its nation, he said. He asserted the importance of unity and that of the meetings held among the Arab brethren.

Syria's Qaddurah's Address

JN2006074089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah has addressed the fifth conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], which is currently being held in the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Qaddurah conveyed struggler President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Qaddurah stressed that the march of joint Arab action and Arab solidarity, which was announced by Syria under the leader of its march struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, is the strongest weapon to confront the Arab nation's enemies and the Zionist schemes of occupation and expansion.

Qaddurah added that the only true danger threatening the Arab nation is the Zionist danger, which has uprooted our Arab people and expelled them from their land after the establishment of the entity of injustice and aggression, and which occupied parts of our Arab homeland, supported by the forces of world imperialism. He said that this fascist entity and its practices in the occupied Arab territories, in Palestine, the [West] Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon, reflect the aggressive and inhuman nature of the Zionist ideology.

He spoke about our people's intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories, which has entered its 19th month. He hailed its martyrs and denounced Israel's expansionist and intransigent policy and the U.S. support for it. He also spoke about the policy of capitulation and the offering of concessions which increased the enemy's arrogance and encouraged it to continue its hostile, expansionist policy.

Qaddurah stressed that we are for a just peace, however, talking about peace in the absence of strategic parity with the Israeli enemy only means weakness and inability to obtain the minimum level of constituents to achieve this just and lasting peace. He added: We believe that the Arab nation's only available option is that of confrontation and action to build strategic parity with the enemy, militarily, politically, economically, and culturally. Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, is continuing to achieve this parity with the Israeli enemy. Moreover, Syria spares no effort to develop its intrinsic power.

Concerning Lebanon, the People's Assembly speaker said: What is taking place in Lebanon is a conflict between a victor and a vanquished and an oppressor and oppressed. This is the problem. It is purely an inter-Lebanese problem that is being fed by the Zionist interference. He added that Lebanon needs to restore security and peace and to achieve national accord among its citizens in a manner that would lead to the reorganization of the state's institutions, guarantee equality among the Lebanese away from sectarian privileges, achieve its national unity, entrench its Arabism, and guarantee security, justice, and freedom for all its sons in order to eliminate the reasons that have led to the civil war that has been continuing for several years.

Arab Ministers To Ask Soviet Help With Lebanon

JN1606094089 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
14 Jun 89 pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] Beirut—A high-level western diplomatic source in Beirut told AL-SIYASAH that the U.S. Administration has informed the pillars of the three-member Arab committee that it pins great hopes on the committee's efforts to save Lebanon and that in order to push forward the salvation process, it is necessary to establish a security zone in Beirut in order to pave the way before holding presidential elections in a free and stable atmosphere.

Based on this information, prominent Lebanese leaders pinned great hopes on the visit that will be made by the foreign ministers of the three-member committee countries to Moscow, especially since the visit will revolve around inviting the Soviet Union on behalf of the Arab summit to help achieve two things:

1. To mediate with all sides concerned in the Middle East to facilitate the establishment of the mentioned security zone around Mansur Palace, which houses the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, in order to hold the presidential elections and allow the Lebanese deputies to approve a document that deals with the headlines of political reforms.

2. To intercede with the United Nations and international fora to pressure Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon according to Resolutions 425 and 426.

AL-SIYASAH's information confirms that the foreign ministers of the three-member committee countries will carry with them to Washington and Paris those two demands in order to secure international unanimity on them. [passage omitted]

Committee To Lobby Major Powers on Arab View

JN2006084089 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic
18 Jun 89 p 8

[Text] UKTUBAR has learned that in implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions, a committee is to be formed that will include at least seven of the Arab kings and presidents. The task of this committee will be to visit the United States, the USSR, and the other big powers to explain the Arab viewpoint toward the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East. This will take place in light of the current contacts and consultations on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to visit Morocco this week to meet Moroccan King Hassan II, in his capacity as the summit chairman, to discuss with him the holding of contacts to form the Arab committee, which is expected to include, in addition to the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine, the leaders of Morocco, Algeria, and one or more Arab Gulf states.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: U.S. Position 'Insurmountable Obstacle'

JN2006075289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2052 GMT
19 Jun 89

[Text] Tunis, 19 Jun (WAKH)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, has stressed that there could be no just peace in the Middle East unless the Palestinian

people regain and exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation and the establishment of an independent state whose capital is Jerusalem. This came in a message 'Arafat addressed to the UN committee on the Palestinian people's exercise of their inalienable rights on the occasion of its annual meeting, which began in New York today.

He said the Palestinian people have repeatedly expressed their desire for peace in accordance with the Palestine National Council resolutions recently adopted in Algiers. He pointed out that the Palestinian peace plan, which is rejected by the Israeli leaders, conforms to the international situation and legality vis-a-vis holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat expressed his total amazement at the U.S. position, which he said constitutes, along with that of Israel, an insurmountable obstacle to the efforts being exerted by the UN secretary general, the UN Security Council, and the international community to hold the desired international conference.

'Arafat added that despite this U.S. stand, the PLO welcomes the current dialogue with the U.S. Administration and calls for developing and enhancing it for the sake of pushing ahead the process of just peace in the region.

Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, also sent a message to the National Association of Arab Americans on the occasion of their annual congress in which he urged them to redouble their efforts in order to acquaint the U.S. public with the true situation in the occupied Arab territories and to prompt the U.S. Administration to pressure the Zionist occupation authorities into putting an end to their aggression on the Palestinian inhabitants.

'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on 'Hostile' U.S. Positions

JN1906154589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Tunis, 19 Jun (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has criticized the recent U.S. attitudes and statements on the Palestine question. He pointed out that they included stands hostile to the Palestinian people and tried to sell the plot of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, which calls for arranging elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under occupation.

In a statement carried today by WAFA, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that these statements—particularly those made by Dennis Ross, director of the Policy Planning Staff of the U.S. State Department—included "positions hostile to the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their soil under the allegation that this state is unachievable." He also said that it [the United States] tried to sell Shamir's initiative "under the allegation that it constitutes a key to political settlement in the Middle East and includes invitations for a so-called dialogue in the occupied territories between Palestinians and Israelis."

The head of the PLO's Information Department, who headed the Palestinian side in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, asserted that these statements show that the U.S. Administration "still insists on pursuing a policy that contradicts the new realities in the region and the comprehensive international trend, which calls for a just and permanent peace based on the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independence."

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed his astonishment over the the fact that those statements completely ignored the Palestinian peace initiative which was supported by 121 states in the United Nations, which was backed by the Casablanca Arab summit, and which was the "basis" for the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He said that this U.S. ignorance can only be explained as a "bias" toward Israel's position, which seeks to sabotage any progress toward a just settlement and contradicts the international direction toward detente and solving regional problems on a just and balanced basis.

The Palestinian official called on President Bush's administration to deal "positively" with the Palestinian peace initiative if it wants to push the peace process forward. Regarding the idea of elections in "the occupied territories," he asserted that "this idea" does not constitute the magical solution if it is not connected to the stages of comprehensive settlement and the international conference leading to self-determination and independence for our people on the basis of international legitimacy.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized that the experience of past decades in the Arab-Israeli conflict has shown that the continuation of all forms of U.S. support to the expansionist and terroristic plans of Israel's rulers, which are hostile to the Palestinian people's rights, have only brought destruction and pain to the peoples in the region and have always threatened international peace. He pointed out that these facts are "the ones that should always be recalled by all those who deal with the problems of our region or by those who propose illusionary solutions and do not place their fingers on the real wound."

Commentary Criticizes U.S. 'Bias' Toward Israel

JN2006092889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] To the masses of our heroic people in the occupied homeland; to [words indistinct] and revolutionary youths; to the heroes of our strike forces, formations of our popular army, and valiant members of youth committees and popular and echelon committees; to women's committees; and to our brothers and sisters in

national federations, unions, societies, and establishments: Hero martyr Akram Mahmud Shihahdah, 15, is a martyr who joined the hero martyrs in Khan Yunus. Sacred Palestinian blood continues to flow in Rafah, Jabalya, Gaza, Nabulus, Nahhalin, Hebron, Bayt Awla, Bayta, Kafr al-Dayk, Dayr Ballut, Janin, Ramallah, Balatah, 'Askar, Kifl Harith, Dayr al-Balah, Al-Maghazi, Al-Burayj, Al-Duhayshah, Bayt Sahur, Salim, Rummanah, al-Nusayrat, al-Shati', Bayt Hanun, Si'ir, Tulkarm, al-Shuwaykah, and in every city, village, and camp in the beloved homeland.

The ceaseless flow of sacred Palestinian blood within the turmoil of the blessed Palestinian intifadah [uprising] is the resounding cry of Palestinian truth. It is an embodiment of the overall Palestinian decision to reject the occupation to the end and to reach freedom and independence.

Regarding this flow of Palestinian blood and continuous Palestinian miracle, the Zionists themselves feel they are incompetent and weak. After hiding the fact for a long time, they have had to admit their losses on all levels and their retreat in all fields. The occupation generals fear and hesitate to take command of the occupation forces in our land. This has been revealed by the resignation of 'Amram Mitzna'. This is what prompted many enemy leaders to admit that it is impossible to terminate the intifadah through repression, terrorism, and the iron fist policy.

However, it is very clear that the U.S. Administration covers every weakness of the Zionist enemy and supports Zionist terrorism and intransigence. The United States contains every move by world public opinion against the Zionist occupation and its ugly crime. At every turning point, the United States utilizes its might and influence to cover the Zionist occupation. It practices the confrontation on its behalf through the policy of total bias toward the Zionist entity and through the policies of overt hostility toward the Palestinian people's rights.

For over 18 months, all enemy attempts, all its forces and herds of settlers and policies of maximum unrestrained terrorism and violence have failed to abort the intifadah, curb the determination of our kinfolk, or undermine the development of our heroic intifadah, the expansion of its basis, and its high ability to wage various forms of confrontations.

In an attempt to overcome this Zionist inability and paralysis, Yitzhaq Shamir presented his exposed conspiratorial election plan, which was confronted with absolute rejection by our people, unanimous rejection by the Arab Casablanca summit, and doubt by all world capitals, with the exception of the United States, which is continuing to apply pressure upon pressure to make this exposed conspiratorial plan succeed.

Our Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied homeland, under the leadership of the PLO, realize that they are confronting the United States, without which the Zionist occupation would not have been able to continue to adhere to its aggressiveness. Our people realize that the U.S. Administration will not for even one moment play the role of neutral broker in the dispute. Moreover, the U.S. Administration continuously announces complete bias toward the Zionist occupation and stands by it and even ahead of it on many occasions to confront the legitimate rights of the our great, militant people.

Where does all that lead? It leads to further tension in the dispute and to further explosions in the region. The U.S. Administration and its deviated political behavior are totally responsible for this situation.

The only available option for our people is to escalate their struggle on all levels, consolidate their intrinsic structure, and reformulate their alliances and relationships in a manner serving militant escalation and preparation for further violent confrontation until the Zionist occupation's will is broken and until the U.S. Administration realizes that its biased policies will lead to no satisfactory results.

Greetings to the soul of Akram Muhammad Shihadah and greetings to the souls of our heroic martyrs in Rafah and everwhere in our beloved homeland. Greetings to our gigantic generations who are continuing their relentless struggle, ceaseless sacrifices, and effort to achieve their national independence and impose it as a solid fact in reality. Revolution until victory.

U.S. Plans To Upgrade Dialogue With PLO

NC1806142089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jun (MENA)—The AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Kuwaiti paper today quoted Palestinian sources as saying that U.S. Ambassador to Tunis Robert Pelletreau told PLO representatives 2 days ago that the U.S. Administration intends to upgrade the level of its dialogue with the organization. The sources also said that the U.S. ambassador added that important U.S. decisions related to U.S.-Palestinian relations are expected to be made soon.

The same sources added that the organization has asked the United States to see to it that Israel gives immunity [hasanah] to a number of Palestinian figures from the occupied territories so that they can take part in the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

Jibril Disavows Actions Against U.S. Airlines

PM1906161089 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Jun 89 p 19

[Report on interview with Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command leader Ahmad Jibril by Patrick Bishop: "Did This Man's Terrorists Plant the Lockerbie Bomb?"]

[Text] Damascus—The paunch is pushing prominently through the blue safari suit now and the military moustache has grown white and straggly. But if Ahmad Jibril, the 51-year-old leader of the Palestinian faction which Western intelligence agencies regard as the organisation most likely to have been behind the Lockerbie bombing affair, has physically softened in middle age, his political attitudes are as hard and unyielding as ever.

On Saturday night [17 June] in a basement office in downtown Damascus he rejected the accusation that his men had planted the bomb that blew Pan Am Flight 103 out of the sky last December and challenged the West to prove otherwise. He promised a "serious and cruel punishment" to any member of his group who turned out to have been involved in the attack.

Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command has remained wedded to its belief that force is the only language that Israel has understood in the 21 years of its existence, regularly despatching a succession of "martyrs" to almost inevitable death on Israel's northern border.

Jibril, a former Syrian army officer, does not appear like the arch-terrorist of Israeli demonology. He is well-covered and courteous, more like a Ramallah shopkeeper than a man of violence. The Lockerbie charges have brought the PFLP-GC a renewed, apparently not-unwelcome notoriety. Fiddling with a string of green worrybeads, he looked pained as he deplored the accusations.

"Ask your security services if the PFLP-GC has ever made any attack on British territory," he said. "All the information that has been published is silly and ridiculous or depends on circumstantial suspicion. I challenge any body, English or American, to offer any proof."

Among the evidence pointing in Jibril's direction are two radio cassette bombs, packed with Semetex explosive of the type investigators believe was used to kill the 259 passengers aboard Pan Am Flight 103, discovered when police arrested 14 members of Jibril's group in West Germany last October. Detonators were also found along with a cache of Kalashnikov rifles.

According to Jibril the haul was not intended for use in Europe but awaiting shipment to Israel and the occupied territories. "We admit now and in the future we will seek to use any possibility on any territory whatever to smuggle weapons to our cells in occupied Palestine, he said. "West Germany is one of those territories."

Pressed on whether he condemned the Lockerbie bombing, he replied the attack was "as criminal as the accident of the Iranian Airbus", shot down by an American warship in the Gulf last year. "We don't believe in acts against civilians and especially against US airlines because, maybe you don't know, but I have a lot of relations with American nationality, sisters and other relations who travel through Europe using American airlines."

As for attacking Israeli airliners: "The door of fighting against the Israelis militarily is not yet closed. Also we have no strong well-informed intelligence body to tell us in advance whether a plane has no Palestinian or foreigner on board. Thirdly, it is not true to say that every Jew is a Zionist.

"In my opinion it is not easy to kill the innocent indiscriminately and survive with a satisfied conscience." Reports emanating from the PLO have suggested the Lockerbie attack could have been carried out by PFLP-GC personnel working with Iranians without the official sanction of the leadership. "If anyone could prove such involvement we would deal with (the) members in a very serious and cruel way," he said. "We forbid that any member of the PFLP-GC should be loyal to or receive any direction from any outside party and equally because we don't believe in acts like this."

Any indignation Jibril may feel about Lockerbie is effectively cancelled out by anger at what he sees as Western indifference to Palestinian suffering. "The Israelis kill daily in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, children and old people and women, in cold blood. I raise this question through THE DAILY TELEGRAPH. is your blood blue and costs a high price and ours the blood of slaves and cheap?"

Despite Jibril's confident air, the tide of events is moving against him. His patron, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, has recently abandoned his opposition to Yasir 'Arafat. But Jibril's contempt for the PLO leader is as strong as ever. "'Arafat regimes have given everything to the USA and Israel and there is nothing remaining," he said. "What has the other side given in return?"

Jibril predicts that "the final destiny of 'Arafat will be no better than that of Petain in France. It is inevitable the day will come when (the Palestinians) will deal with 'Arafat for the political crimes he has committed against our people." His executioner, he says, is likely to be one of 'Arafat's own men, "so there is no need for our efforts concerning that point".

Behind Jibril stood a cabinet flanked with photographs of long-gone "martyrs". There was a garish picture of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem's Old City.

For Jibril, who left his homeland in 1948 when Israel was created, the conflict is all or nothing. "I left Palestine, a small village on the Mediterranian shore near Jaffa when

I was 10 years old. My family lived there for hundreds of years continuously. I aim to come back to my village. If I don't make it then my children will try to."

USSR Backs 'Palestine State' Joining UNESCO

JN1806161689 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Jun 89 p 23

[Excerpts] Paris—AL-QABAS has learned from highly placed Palestinian sources that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has issued instructions to the competent authorities not to submit any membership application for the State of Palestine to any international organization unless there are sufficient guarantees that membership will be accorded or a diplomatic success scored. These sources reported that a diplomatic and political battle is taking place over the issue of the membership of the State of Palestine in UNESCO and that the Palestinian side has expressed its readiness to conclude a deal with the U.S. Administration under which the Palestinian state will postpone its joining UNESCO if the United States agrees to return to this international organization. [passage omitted]

AL-QABAS has also learned that the Soviet Union has informed the Palestinian officials that it supports the Palestinian state's joining UNESCO, contrary to its stand opposing the Palestinian state's joining WHO. [passage omitted]

UNESCO To Discuss Application

JN1906194689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Paris, 19 Jun (INA)—The UNESCO Executive Board today decided to include Palestine's request to join UNESCO on the agenda of UNESCO's general conference, scheduled to begin in the French capital on 16 October.

UNESCO sources have said that the decision was reached by a unanimous vote of the 51 members of the Executive Board who represent their countries on the 5 continents.

Agreement on the acceptance of Palestine's membership in UNESCO was an issue of negotiations that lasted for 3 weeks among the states which put forth the proposal—Egypt, Algeria, Indonesia, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and South Yemen—and the Western countries.

Agreement was reached on a recommendation to the UNESCO secretary general and the organization's general conference which refers to the need for a more effective participation by Palestine in the work of UNESCO.

Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, sent a message on 9 July to UNESCO Secretary General Federico Mayor in which he requested membership for the State of Palestine in UNESCO. He asserted that this request shows the Palestinian people's desire to effectively contribute to consolidating ties of cooperation among nations in the fields of education, science, and culture together with all peace-loving people.

'Umar Masalihah, Palestine's non-permanent representative to UNESCO, welcomed the Executive Board's decision to accept the principle of Palestine's right to submit its application.

He said that the draft resolution on Palestine's membership will become valid if it receives the approval of two-thirds of the 158 members of the UNESCO general conference during its next session. This is expected in view of the support shown by the majority of UNESCO member states for the Palestinian application, he said.

'Arafat Chairs Fatah, Council Joint Meeting

LD1706194289 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Chairman and leader Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday evening presided over a joint meeting of the Fatah Central Committee and Revolutionary Council.

According to an informed source, this open meeting, which will continue for several days, will discuss the latest developments in the situation concerning the Palestinian cause and the means to consolidate the popular uprising, in addition to discussing the situation within the Fatah Movement.

'Arafat Delivers Dinner Speech in Nigeria

JN1606175989 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 89

["Text" of a speech delivered by "President of Palestine" Yasir 'Arafat at dinner banquet hosted in his honor by the Nigerian president in Abuja; read by announcer—date not given]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency, brother President Ibrahim Babanjida; Your Excellencies members of the Armed Forces Ruling Council; Your Excellencies the ministers; Your Excellencies the ambassadors; ladies and gentlemen. I am very pleased to be among you in this hospitable, friendly country and on this good land, which is genuine in its history and that of its great African people. [passage omitted]

I would like to express to you in the name of our Palestinian people our deep appreciation for your friendly country's support for our Palestinian people's just cause and struggle to achieve freedom and independence. You have crowned this support by your recognition of the State of Palestine when it was proclaimed. [passage omitted]

Your Excellency, brother president; brothers and sisters. You know that our people have been subjected for scores of years to a brutal policy of liquidation by Israel, its occupation forces, and its armed settlers and gangs. They kill innocent people, bury the living, break bones, cause pregnant women to abort, kill children, launch mass arrests, deport citizens from the homeland, demolish homes, and close schools and universities. Despite this, our Palestinian people confront them heroically and courageously in defense of their homeland and through the brave heroic popular intifadah [uprising], which has entered its 19th month. Our people have announced to the world and the Zionist occupiers that the time of occupation has gone for all and that repression will not destroy the will of the struggler people.

Brother President, brothers and sisters. Our Palestine National Council stressed the Palestinian people's desire to bring about a just and lasting peace during its 19th extraordinary session in Algiers. This desire was further stressed through the Palestinian peace initiative, which I announced in our people's name in my speech before the UN General Assembly's 43d session in Geneva in December 1988. This initiative is based on convening a UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states as well as all parties to the dispute, including the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties, on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem; on securing international protection for these territories for a limited time; and on recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state. [passage omitted]

Joint Statement Issued

LD1706194889 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The brother chairman and leader arrived yesterday at noon in Tunisia from Nigeria at the end of an official 2-day visit. [passage omitted]

In the wake of brother Chairman Abu Ammar's visit to Nigeria, a Palestinian-Nigerian joint statement was issued. In the statement, the leaders of the two countries welcomed the Palestine National Council [PNC] proclamation of the independent Palestinian state as a brave and encouraging step on the road toward permanent peace in the Middle East.

The statement also welcomed the brave uprising and condemned the Zionist terrorist and oppressive practices and policies against the Palestinian people.

The two sides stressed anew the necessity of holding an international conference on the Middle East whose central issue is the Palestinian question, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the sides of the conflict in the region, including the PLO, on equal footing.

The Palestinian and Nigerian heads of state, after stressing the importance of strengthening and [word indistinct] the existing relations of friendship between the Arab and African countries, expressed their deep concern at the continued tense situation in Lebanon.

They also welcomed the results of the quadripartite peace talks on Namibia, and called for releasing Nelson Mandela in South Africa.

Khalaf on Syria's Release of Fatah Members

PM1906092689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: New Positive Ties With Syria"]

[Excerpts] London—A senior Palestinian official yesterday welcomed Syria's release of a group of Fatah members who had been detained in Syria for several years. He said: It was a positive move, confirming our optimism that in the coming phase of Syrian-PLO relations all the blemished pages of the past will be turned over.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said that the PLO was about to hold meetings with the Syrian leadership in Damascus. He said that the steps taken by Syria over the past few days promoted trust and opened new horizons for constructive dialogue.

Abu-Iyad [Khalaf] added: The Palestinian leadership looks forward to healthy and positive relations with Syria in a framework that will be defined in the next 2 weeks through dialogues and meetings to create the right atmosphere for normalization.

He also said: The new chapter to be opened with Syria will certainly be cherished by all strugglers, who will allow nobody to undermine it.

Although the informed Syrian sources contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT declined to comment on reports of the release of 185 Fatah detainees, the sources did say that "Damascus has welcomed the resumption of the Syrian-PLO dialogue in the interest of pooling Arab efforts in support of the continuing popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory on the basis of rejection of the Israeli plans to abort it.

Palestinian sources in Damascus have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the news of the release of that

group of detainees, adding that that was not the first but the third group released over the past 3 weeks. [passage omitted]

REUTER, citing Palestinian and Lebanese sources, reported that Syria released 185 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners—140 Fatah members and 45 members of the Unification Movement led by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban. The sources said that the released Palestinians, who came from al-Yarmuk camp, were arrested on the charge of supporting 'Arafat.

Abu-Iyad said that the number of people released is more than the figure mentioned by REUTER. This was confirmed in press reports quoting leading Fatah members in Lebanon as saying that about 405 detainees have been released since the beginning of May in five groups.

Egypt

Papers Deny Egyptian Involvement in Sudan Coup

NC2006080389 Cairo MENA in English 0721 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, June 20 (MENA)—The three Cairo Arabic morning dailies reported prominently on their front pages today the Sudanese military foiled a coup attempt. Sudan has arrested 14 Army officers and 48 civilians in connection with a plot to topple the government and bring former president Ja'far Numayri back to power, the papers reported, quoting independent Khartoum newspapers.

The coup plot had been scheduled to be carried out around noon yesterday when Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi delivered a major policy speech in parliament. They quoted military and security sources as saying tanks and armored vehicles from a major Army barracks on the capital's outskirts had been due to ring parliament and the Armed Forces' headquarters in central Khartoum, the papers said. The 14 Army officers detained in connection with the coup plot included six brigadiers, two colonels, one lieutenant colonel and five majors, the papers added.

Sudanese Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi declared, in a statement before the Constituent Assembly at noon yesterday, that the attempted coup intended to bring back former President Numayri to power and aimed to carry out a massacre in the assembly (Sudan's parliament) yesterday, and that an urgent enquiry would be carried out and decisive action would be taken to protect the country's national sovereignty and Sudan's democracy, the papers said.

Al-Mahdi was quoted by Sudanese newspapers yesterday as having accused Egypt of conspiring with former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri against Sudan.

AL-JUMHURIYAH published in a box a statement by former Sudanese President Numayri denying having had any connection with the attempted abortive coup, while AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR published in separate boxes their surprise at Sudanese Prime Minister al-Mahdi's contrived use of Egypt's name in the affair while knowing that a basic principle of Egyptian policy was to abstain from meddling in the internal affairs of sister Arab countries.

Expressing surprise at statements, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Mahdi was quoted as having made, AL-AHRAM said he knew very well that a basic principle of Egypt's policy was not to interfere in the domestic affairs of sister countries and al-Mahdi's charges did not tally with Egypt's efforts to help sister Sudan in every way it could.

The newspaper recalled Egypt's endeavours to bring Al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam close together, and to seek a formula for peace in southern Sudan, and emphasized that former Sudanese President Numayri's residence in Egypt was sanctioned by the Egyptian Constitution, which allowed political asylum to be sought in Egypt but prohibited political refugees to undertake any political action. If Al-Mahdi really made these statements, then he would have greatly wronged Egypt.

In a similar comment, AL-AKHBAR said the Sudanese prime minister was still determined to bring Egypt's name forcibly into his domestic problems.

Columnist on Al-Mahdi's Anti-Egypt Positions

JN1506094689 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 89 p 12

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] The distinguished relations Egypt enjoys with all world countries did not arise from a vacuum. They came about due to successful and wise diplomacy and a leadership greatly concerned about the interests of the people. How happy we Egyptians are to deal with the East and the West on an equal footing and without the least sensitivities. Therefore, we feel sorry for the neighbor or relative who insists on behaving in a way that does not express any feelings of neighborliness or relation toward us. The least one can say is that it is abnormal behavior.

Ever since Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi became prime minister in Sudan, he has found no side other than Egypt at which to hurl unjust accusations. He fabricated positions to shake relations between the two peoples. After doing everything he pleased, he repeated all over again that relations are eternal.

Of course, these are words that have nothing to do with reality. They are being used as a cover for the positions and an attempt to conceal the obvious.

The examples are various and many: When Sudan was hit by catastrophic floods, Egypt was one of the first countries to rush to its aid. Despite that, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi came out with statements denying the Egyptian effort.

When relations between us and Libya were tense, the Sudanese prime minister led everyone to believe that he was playing the role of mediator between the two countries to rectify matters—so much so that Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi started believing that that was really the case. He did not know the truth until after reconciliation took place.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi persisted in repeating his call to cancel the two agreements of integration and joint defense between Egypt and Sudan. Because our policies are clear, Egypt refused to be the initiator in cancelling any treaty or agreement.

Therefore, when a few days ago, they sent their foreign minister with a message asking for the cancellation of the joint defense agreement, Egypt did not stand in the way of fulfilling their desires.

The Sudanese Government has witnessed the day when the integration agreement was changed to the brotherhood charter, which is no more than a joint statement between the two governments.

In order to reduce the effect of the shock of this change on the people, the government proceeded to talk about illusionary meetings that never took place between the Sudanese and Egyptian officials, which it claimed took place within the framework of the brotherhood charter.

And many other positions which we do not want to delve into now because Egypt, as President Mubarak said, is concerned about relations with the Sudanese people. However, if Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has any grudges left over from the past, we hope that with time they will disappear.

I have one final thing to say:

It is not Egypt's custom to strike a friend, or even an enemy. It is also not its tradition to enumerate its assets over others. This is what Egypt will not allow itself to do. On the other hand, it should be known that Cairo has exerted great effort to restore peace to Sudan and exploited its friendship with Ethiopian President Mengistu's government to prepare for the negotiations which pave the way for this peace. That a human being—any human being—should actually think of anything so preposterous as sending Egyptian military forces outside Egyptian borders—this is impossible. It is a bitter experience which should not be repeated and is best forgotten.

Article Views Al-Mahdi's Policy

JN1706195489 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 16 Jun 89 p 13

[Article by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's Special Relations"]

[Text] I do not know what kind of special relations Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has in mind when he speaks about ties with Egypt after his government has insisted on confiscating an Egyptian fishing boat belonging to a fisherman who was seeking his living in the High Dam lake. The fisherman, who had no navigation equipment on his poor boat, went past Egypt's territorial waters. They arrested him, confiscated his boat, and imprisoned him for 6 months because he broke the law and went fishing in "unfriendly" waters!

The incident seems to be a minor one. However, it is part of a course that makes us ask: What kind of special relations can Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi speak about? This is if what he wanted was to provoke Egypt to treat Sudan in kind. However, Egypt will not do this, even if a thousand Sudanese fishing boats cross Egypt's territorial waters. Sudanese citizens, from southern and northern Sudan, cross the border every day, seeking job opportunities in Egypt without anyone repulsing them or taking them to trial because they come from Sudan, with which Egypt cannot sever its relations over minor political wrangling seeking to cover for their internal failure by creating daily problems in the two countries' relations.

The incident seems to be a minor one. However, it is part of a course of a policy that actually reflects a "unique" special relationship that is exposed by the earlier genuine actions of the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government's decisive positions toward protecting Sudan's territorial waters and its national soil!

Two years ago, when some of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's forces were deployed in Sudan, close to its border with Chad, without the knowledge of the Sudanese Government, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said nothing, then denied, then finally had no choice but to admit it and stress that he will convince the Libyans to withdraw their forces from Sudan! However, it seems that the Egyptian fishing boat posed a more serious threat to fraternal Sudan's security. This is why the Sudanese action was quick and tough! We are amazed at Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Our greatest hope is to understand the dimensions of these special relations he sees in the Egyptian-Sudanese ties.

A year ago, his problem with Egypt was that Egypt did not implement the joint defense agreement and did not fight with Sudan against the forces of Colonel Garang in southern Sudan. All that was required was that Egyptian planes bombard Garang's forces in the forests to stop his advance on the southern cities. However, Egypt rejected this and did not help Sudan protect its national soil from a flagrant aggression from beyond its border! Egypt tried in vain to give advice, because southern Sudan's war cannot be settled by the bombardment of forces that are deployed in forests, resorting to guerrilla warfare, and not staying in specific positions. The expected result of such action will only be the bombardment of the enemy and friendly positions together!

Egypt has tried in vain to say that the southern Sudan war, even if it was fomented by some foreign sides, is finally an inter-Sudanese war that must not be expanded to become a civil war between the south and the north.

Egypt has tried in vain to convince Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government that Sudan, which desires to improve its economic situation, should seek serious negotiations to tackle the southern Sudan problem. This is because the leaders of the southern rebellion do not seek separation but reforms and because the war will lead to further destruction under circumstances in which Sudan's economy suffers from serious difficulties that are impossible to be overcome without a new atmosphere that paves the way for Sudan's stability and internal security.

And now, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is seeking the abrogation of the joint defense agreement instead of requesting the enforcement of this agreement for different reasons. Because the agreement has disturbed the balance of Sudan's relations with other parties! "With the Libyans in the north! And the Ethiopians in the south!" Because the abrogation of the agreement will help Sudan in its negotiations with Garang, and also because the agreement basically sought to achieve nothing other than the protection of the defunct Numayri regime!

Egypt rejected the reasons provided by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, because when Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi consulted Egypt on the issue of mending fences with Libya, Egypt voiced approval and enthusiasm, despite the status of Egyptian-Libyan relations at the time, in the hope that this would contribute to the stability of Sudan and because Egypt used to insist that the rectification of Sudanese-Ethiopian ties would help a negotiated settlement to the southern Sudan problem. Egypt exerted strenuous efforts in this regard until the Al-Mahdi-Mengistu meeting materialized. Egypt also rejected these reasons beause the agreement was between two fraternal states whose common interests must be above personal considerations and above the calculations based on revenge and vindictiveness.

Egypt rejected these reasons. Yet, it has not opposed the abrogation request, as this is one of Sudan's legitimate rights. All that Egypt requested is that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announce the abrogation of the agreement. Then, Egypt would announce its acceptance of the Sudanese decision.

And now, the Sudanese prime minister seeks to make the presence of Numayri in Egypt a story and an anecdote, just because Numayri received at his place of residence in Cairo a journalist who told the world about the attitude of the Sudanese ex-president on the deterioration of the situation in Sudan.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi knows that Egypt has warned Numayri more than once. The last of these warnings was communicated to him only a few days ago. He knows that Numayri was cautioned on the need to respect the rights granted to a political refugee and refrain from carrying out any activities that might embarrass Egypt in its relations with Sudan, as Egyptian-Sudanese relations are above personal considerations and as Egypt respects the legitimacy accepted by the Sudanese people.

However, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi does want to believe! He wants Egypt to hand over Numayri or to lock him in solitary confinement, and Egypt will not do this.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi still suspects Egypt of using Numayri as a card to pressure Sudan.

Why? What are the reasons? What can Numayri do? And can he serve such an objective, considering that he has become a part of an unrecoverable past?

Unmistakably clear answers can be found to these questions. However, the Sudanese prime minister is still determined to make the Numayri's presence in Egypt a story and an anecdote. Maybe, the story used to preoccupy the average Sudanese citizen and distract his attention from his real concerns and problems. But the repeated use of this story has ruined its usefulness, as the average Sudanese citizen is aware of the reasons behind his worries. Let the Sudanese prime minister rest assured that Mubarak's Egypt does not pursue such tactics, even if it were capable of implementing them. This is because Egypt commits itself to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other Arab states and also because it respects the legitimacy accepted by the Sudanese people.

Let the Sudanese prime minister rest assured that Egypt will do its best to sincerely safeguard its special relations with Sudan. Egypt wants only to know what type of special relations Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi means when he talks about his relations with Egypt, as words become no longer credible when they are contradicted by deeds.

Muslim Brotherhood's Abu-al-Nasr Interviewed

JN1506141189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
13 Jun 89 p 27

[Interview with Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, "general guide" of Muslim Brotherhood, by 'Adil al-Sanhuri in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sanhuri] Following the death of 'Umar al-Talmasani, former general guide of the [Muslim] Brotherhood, calls emerged for the Muslim Brotherhood to redraft and rechart a new policy. What do you think?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Recharting new policies has been a practice of the group since its founding by Shaykh Hasan al-Banna, with subsequent guides following in his footsteps. How these polices are implemented changes with changing circumstances and times. We, therefore, think that unless circumstances change there is no reason for the group's policies to change.

[Al-Sanhuri] What do you think of the criticism that actual power and decisionmaking are concentrated in the hands of the general guide, thus reinforcing the personality cult in the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The post of general guide is defined by rules and regulations set by the group's statutes. He acts as the spokesman for the group, having consulted with different echelons of it. The guide can only act within the confines defined by the group.

[Al-Sanhuri] The criticism is made that the Muslim Brotherhood still lacks a political identity or political entity of its own. How would you react to that?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood's identity has been known for 60 years, and its principles are pervasive around the globe. They are there for all to see, and only an ingrate would deny their existence. The only thing they lack is official recognition. As for us, the Muslim Brotherhood, our policies are inspired by the precept that Islam is a whole, all-embracing religion that regulates all aspects of life. We have no policy that is discrete from religion. Our policy is based on shari'a and controlled by the precepts of our religion. It is not permissible for us to seek solutions to the problems of society outside the principles of Islam. It is natural for us to seek the entrenchment of the principles of shari'a and creed as a priority. Once these principles are established in society, it will be possible to build on them. Our programs are clear because they derive from the shari'a precepts as decreed by men of jurisprudence. For instance, concerning the state political system, we embrace the principle of consultancy because this is part of our belief in our religion. We also believe in a multiparty system within the framework of not deviating from the principles of shari'a, on which there is a consensus with no room for individual interpretation. We have also said that the presidency is a position of real responsibility. The members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council must be freely elected, and the same must apply to the prime minister and ministers. Undoubtedly, these principles, which we have often enough enunciated, give a clear picture of our political program and ourselves that may not be quite known to many.

[Al-Sanhuri] It is sometimes said that the Muslim Brotherhood is a sure guarantee and a bridge for other other parties that ally themselves with it to cross to the People's Assembly. A case in point is Al-Wafd Party, despite its secular orientation, and more recently the Socialist Labor Party in what was called the alliance.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The alliance with the parties was dicated by necessity, inasmuch as the Muslim Brotherhood is officially banned from political action. Our political and social activity is restricted by unfair laws. For the Brotherhood to be able to represent the people in parliament, it has had to put itself under the umbrella of the parties to air its thoughts and views on reform. Undoubtedly, the Muslim Brotherhood has availed itself of this channel; it has effected some reform by joining hands with some of those who care for the country's wellbeing. Likewise, the allied parties have benefited from the sheer number of the Muslim Brotherhood, its strength, and the high regard with which it is held by the people.

[Al-Sanhuri] It is said that the Muslim Brotherhood was behind what took place recently in the Socialist Labor Party. What is your response to this accustaion?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The differences of opinion in the Labor Party are an internal problem; we had nothing to do with this. The alliance still exists, and we will work to consolidate it to serve the dear homeland. The accusation against us is not true, and we believe that nobody dares to prove it. What is happening is that some "slanderers" who write against us in many papers are making these allegations. All party members are aware that the Muslim Brotherhood has nothing to do with the party's organizational and administrative affairs.

We can say that the general Islamic current in the country and in all the Islamic East has a great effect on the group in the Labor Party that called for reforms on an Islamic basis. We can say that this group is affected by the Islamic awakening. In any case, there is an alliance among the Muslim Brotherhood, the Labor Party, and the Liberal Party; the articles of this alliance are known and public. We all entered the elections on this basis. Our alliance will continue. This is the basis that governs our movement, and we have nothing else at the present time.

[Al-Sanhuri] After the alliance with Al-Wafd and the Labor Party, what will be the Muslim Brotherhood's next step? Why do you not declare your party and the political program?

[Abu-al-Nasr] So long as the Muslim Brotherhood group is not officially recognized, we will always be forced to seek alliance with any party through which we can contribute to serving the people. The formation of a political party for the Muslim Brotherhood is an old hope, but it is difficult to achieve now, so we are waiting for the appropriate political circumstances. Hence, we cannot set a specific time to present a program for the Muslim Brotherhood Party because we do not know the reality of the political situation or what it will be when we present our program. Anyway, the program of the Muslim Brotherhood to be declared at the time of the formation of the party will be announced at the appropriate time.

[Al-Sanhuri] What is your assessment of the Muslim Brotherhood's political course within the People's Assembly after 5 years of experience?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood succeeded in highlighting their opposition to behavior that does not benefit the people and their support for what is in the interests of the people. However, the national media organs did not highlight the clear acitivities for everybody. Those who want to be acquainted with the work of the representatives of the Muslim Brotherhood should read the records of the People's Assembly sessions, as they contain a lot of their activities.

[Al-Sanhuri] A university thesis says that Shaykh Hasan al-Banna and leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir were the greatest personalities in the political arena in Egypt during the 20th Century as religious and political leaders and that it is time to hold a national dialogue between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Nasirists, as they are considered major sources for Arab and Islamic civilization. What is your opinion on this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Every man is free to express his opinion. However, I differ with the one who says that 'Abd-al-Nasir was the greatest political personality. The fact is that 'Abd-al-Nasir was no more than a tyrant and oppressor who fought the call for Islam with violence, and in his hands the nation faced bitter defeats, the pain of which we are still suffering.

[Al-Sanhuri] But, do you not believe that confrontations and disputes between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Nasirists are now an inheritance in light of many changes and developments in the political, social, and economic arenas in Egypt; that the present generation has nothing to do with this conflict; and it is time to liquidate the differences in these interests of the nation?

[Abu-al-Nasr] There are no differences between the Muslim Brotherhood and anybody for personal reasons. The differences are on imported principles that fight Islamic ideology. We are lying in wait for these principles and, God willing, we will uproot them by reason, not force.

[Al-Sanhuri] In your opinion, where does the dialogue with the Nasirists begin?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We reject dialogue with the Nasirists as long as they insist on adopting the ideology that caused our current moral, economic, and social crises. There is no common ground on which to meet with the Nasirists because the meeting point between us and others is Islam and the belief in the need to obey and embrace the teachings of Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him, and to work in accordance with them.

[Al-Sanhuri] Differences between members of the Brotherhood and the Jihad Organization reached the point of bickering and hand-to-hand fighting, to the extent that some believed that the Jihad Organization is leading the Islamic movement in Egypt, especially when it emerged in the seventies as a confrontational religious current. What is your comment on this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Differences are natural among those who adopt viewpoints, especially when these differences are on substantive points on which agreement is impossible. We leave it to time to correct concepts and change methods that harm Islam and the Muslims. The whole world has testified to the correct, deep-rooted principles of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded 60 years ago and had good results. Eventually, only the correct will last. The future is subject to God's will. The basic rule for us is to follow our path, adhering to our faith, shari'a, and behavior. We do not engage in differences with others, and we are always ready to cooperate with them within this path. As for the points of difference, we excuse them and leave them alone. Similarly, we also hope that the others will excuse us for differing with them, pursue their own path, and not engage in differences with us.

[Al-Sanhuri] What is your response to the accusations leveled against the Muslim Brotherhood by the Islamic Jihad Organization and its leader, Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman; namely, that they are working under the banner of the regime, have submitted to the government, and distanced themselves from the arena of the Islamic call?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Such accusations have been leveled against the Muslim Brotherhood in the past as well as recently. However, the Brotherhood has not paused to consider them. The important thing is to work in the arena of Islam. Each will do his utmost and exert all his efforts to promote the cause of this faith.

[Al-Sanhuri] What is the Brotherhood's position on other religious groups?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We welcome all Islamic groups based on the principle propounded by our imam, the martyr Hasan al-Banna; namely, that we will support one another on points of agreement and excuse one another on points of difference. The apparent dfferences are due to the absence of the right atmosphere for the Islamic Call movement. Restrictions and obstacles to Islamic activities are responsible for these differences. Moreover, tendentious reporting is responsible for exaggerating, deepening, and fomenting differences among the Islamists.

[Al-Sanhuri] Some of the issues being raised in Egypt now concern changing abominable deeds by force, taking a hardline in preaching good deeds, holding the rulers as infidels, and implementing Islamic law all at once and not gradually. What is the Muslim Brotherhood's position on these issues?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood's members do not change abominable deeds by force. We call for Islam through wisdom and good preaching. That is how the Islamic call began in the prophet's era. Shaykh Hasan al-Banna followed the same method.

The prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, lived in Mecca. We have never heard or read that he ordered the assassination of or hit any infidel, even when the infidels harmed Muslims. Why, then does this happen while we live in an Islamic community and address people appealing to their being Muslims who believe in God and His messenger! Hence, we reject violence and attacks on any individual or group, no matter how great their violations against Islamic tenets. Besides, we do not brand as infidel any person who has not uttered the Muslim creed [there is no God but God, and Muhammad is His prophet] and has not repudiated anything enshrined in religion. The one who has uttered the Muslim creed is viewed as a Muslim, and as such the laws governing Muslims apply to him. We do not have the right to discuss how sincere and true is his utterance of this creed. We have many sayings of the prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, on this issue. In one of his sayings, the prophet says: "I was ordered to

fight people until they say that there is no God but God and believe in me and in the message that I was asked to convey. If they do so, they become immune, and this immunity does not entitle me either to kill them or take away their property unless they perform deeds worthy of such a fate. Thus, God will be the one to judge their deeds." In another saying, the prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, says: "The one who said that there is no God but God will be taken away from hellfire even if his heart has only an iota of goodness." Besides, God says: "God forgives not that partners should be set up with Him; but He forgives anything else, to whom He pleases." [Koranic verse]. Moreover, the Muslim Brotherhood believes that the climate should be prepared for implementing Islamic laws. And there is no doubt that this needs time, practice, and a new type of upbringing.

[Al-Sanhuri] What is your opinion of the statements made by Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman affirming the apostasy of Najib Mahfuz [Egyptian novelist and Nobel prize winner] because he wrote the novel "Awlad Haritnah" and linked him and Salman Rushdie, who wrote "The Satanic Verses"?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We do not say that Najib Mahfuz is an apostate although we believe that there are loopholes in his works that lend themselves to differing interpretations and cast doubts on Islamic doctrine and some of his works have served the West more than they served Arabism or Islam. We, the Muslim Brotherhood, are satisfied by the fact that Najib Mahfuz denied that he has transgressed against Islamic tenets that we cherish in his novel "Awlad Haritnah" and said that he would not write such a novel if he had the chance to relive the days of his youth. Furthermore, there is a big difference between "Awlad Haritnah" and "The Satanic Verses," as the latter does not lend itself to differing interpretations, since it contains flagrant and unmistakable attacks on Islam. Besides, "The Satanic Verses" is void of any opinions or ideas. It contains vituperations and slanders against Islam and its sacred symbols, which we cherish.

[Al-Sanhuri] How do you explain the emergence of religious groups in this violent and extremist manner and the clashes between them and the Egyptian regime? And how do you envisage a way out of this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] These numerous groups have been denied the benefits of guidance and education by the absence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Islamic arena, as the Muslim Brotherhood attaches great importance to cultivating the principles of a tolerant Islamic doctrine as well as a sound and proper method in the heart. This absence has resulted in the emergence of these controversial and extremist ideas. There is no doubt that the security measures being taken against these extremists are harsh and manifestations of cruel deterrence, which leaves no room for mercy or clemency to these youths who are the backbone of our present and future. These cruel measures elevate the enthusiasm of these youths, strengthen their vindictive sentiments, and encourage them to extricate their rights through legal or illegal means.

The solution lies in enabling all Islamists to enjoy the right granted to them by God to work in peace and security within the confines of the law, and without any pursuit or tyrannical persecution by the authorities.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on U.S., PRC

OW1906212389 Tokyo JNN Television Network in Japanese 1341 GMT 19 Jun 89

["Exclusive" interview with leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by announcer Kunio Ogawa in the Tokyo studio and unidentified correspondent in Tripoli via satellite relay, from the "News Desk'89" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Video begins with announcer Ogawa speaking in the studio, cutting to a full-screen shot of Al-Qadhdhafi seated behind a cluster of microphones in a brightly colored tent. Video then cuts back to announcer.]

Libya's top leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, is a representative of Arab hardliners, called by the West a rowdy of the Middle East. Recently it has been observed that Col al-Qadhdhafi may be softening his stand and may be heading in the direction of a softer line.

Since the News Desk succeeded in obtaining an exclusive interview with Col al-Qadhdhafi via satellite, we took the occasion to ask him questions dealing with this point.

First of all, of concern to us is his stand toward the United States, which he criticized with all kinds of bad words following the incident of the downing of a Libyan military plane. We will begin with his views concerning the present Bush administration.

[Video shows announcer speaking to JNN reporter in Tripoli via telephone]

[Ogawa] What are his views on the Bush administration's Middle East policies? I would like to know if there is any possibility that Libya wants to improve relations with the United States.

[Correspondent] I get your point.

[Al-Qadhdhafi, in Arabic, with Japanese subtitles] Our policies toward the United States have not changed. Our policies are based on the principles of self-defense and no military interference. During the Reagan days, the United States attacked us when we were sleeping, intruded into our territorial waters, and tried to interfere in our domestic affairs.

We expect the Bush administration to have learned lessons from the stupid actions of Reagan. I believe the new Bush administration is a little wiser. Bush is totally different from Reagan, and is not belligerent as a private individual nor as a politician. He appears concerned with domestic affairs. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union is another good example.

The United States will take its hands off foreign nations, and will come to put the emphasis on domestic affairs—on such issues as unemployment, trade, diseases like AIDS and cancer. I trust Bush of the United States will direct his attention to these kinds of problems, and keep his hands out of stupid actions overseas.

[Ogawa] Col al-Qadhdhafi never reveals the venue for an interview in advance, and we were suddenly informed that the interview would be held in a tent this time. We were surprised by this.

At any rate, as you have heard, his evaluation of the Bush administration is positive, and we could sense a considerable difference from half a year ago.

Now, on other matters: I would like to hear his views on the situation in Iran following the death of Mr Khomeyni and on the crackdowns on the democratic movement in China. Please continue to hear.

Regarding the situation in Iran, Mr Khomeyni is gone. What Iran will be in the future is of much concern to us. I would like to know how Col al-Qadhdhafi feels about this.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Iran after Mr Khomeyni may become like China after Mao Zedong was gone. We would like to call on the Iranian Revolutionary Army and the Iranian Revolutionary Committee not to become like China then. We are hoping that the on-going revolution in Iran will continue to fight imperialism and Zionism. We are also hoping at the same time that the Iranian revolution will develop into Jamahiriyah—people's socialism in which the people will participate in politics directly—which we are pushing for, based on the third world theory.

I would like you to know that there is common ground between the political system based on Islam and the political system of this Jamahiriyah. Both are political systems centered around the people. As you can see, for instance, from prayers, fasting, pilgrimage, and the state of property, they are for the people.

[Ogawa] Now about China, which is close to Japan while it may not be so close to Libya. The world is watching what will become of China. He briefly mentioned Mao Zedong. How does Mr Al-Qadhdhafi view the situation in China? Please ask him.

[Al-Qadhdhafi—in Arabic, with simultaneous Japanese translation] What is happening now in China is as I predicted in my Green Book. We are now in the age of Jamahiriyah, or people's socialism. Students and citizens, therefore, are beginning to insist on their views. What this means is that the students and the citizens are not supporting the leaders who are ruling them. Another thing we can say about it is that China is paying for the open-door policy which opened the doors to the United States and the Western world. The open-door policy eventually brings nothing but bad results. It causes the people to desire consumer goods which are not really necessary. China, which has trodden on the spirit of socialism, may come to tread a road to starvation. I would like China to recall that the country has been saved by the principles of socialism which distribute wealth to the people equally. China's open-door policy toward the West has consequently led the people of China to take after and mimick the wealthy Western nations. The situation in China shows the degeneration of resolution, and is a revelation of the fact that the teachings of Mao Zedong have not been faithfully followed. The degeneration of the revolution caused by a consumer economy is bound to drive the people to run toward goods and more goods. But I hope that the revolution by the students and citizens in China some day will change toward the direction of citizens' taking over power.

JANA on Interview

LD1706171489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 17 June, JANA—The Japanese television network interviewed the brother leader of the revolution over the last 2 days. In an interview, he spoke abut the historical and social dimensions of the world's critical events. [passage omitted]

On the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] the leader explained "the UMA is an integral Arab union. If it is lead by the unionist force it will be a step towards Arab unity. But if it is lead by an isolationist force it will be an anti-Arab action." The leader said that the UMA was dictated by necessity, as the whole world is turning into big blocs. The leader called "for Mali, Niger, Chad, and the Sudan to join the Union" so that it becomes a (complementary?) union and not a racist union built on the Arab race alone. [passage omitted]

The brother leader spoke about the events witnessed by China and analyzed them in the light of the Green Book predictions. The brother leader explained that the masses want to rule themselves directly and to dictate what they want without any deputization, government, or a middleman. [passage omitted]

The brother leader confirmed that the objective of the Jewish community is to destroy the world so that God's chosen people remain and this is a very dangerous racist theory. The Zionists believe that what is called Israel

should remain on earth; as for the remaining states, they should destroy each other by nuclear weapons—and they are leading the world towards destruction. [passage omitted]

On Egyptian-Libyan relations, the brother leader said: "The relations between the Libyan Arab people and the Egyptian people have returned to normal, and the borders on land, sea, and air have opened. At the political level we agreed on a long-term strategic policy of confronting the enemies of Zionism and imperialism, and confirmed that the only road to this is the unity of the Arab nation and Egypitan-Libyan unity. The enemies will conspire against us, but we will resist them."

The brother leader spoke about the Middle East problem and explained: "We want a peace built on justice, and for the Palestinian people to return to their home from which they were expelled and to their farms, which were taken by the Jews in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jaffa, and Acre. He added that the 3 million Palestinians who were expelled from that land should return to it and a democratic Palestinian state be established which joins together Arab and Jew. The brother leader confirmed that unless this solution is accepted, the Palestinians will be forced to fight until the end. [passage omitted]

Further on Interview

LD1806173789 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The brother of the revolution affirmed that the age of the great al-Fatih cannot be measured by years or even a generation because it is a historical revolution whose aim is to change the world into a jamahiri world where the people's congresses and people's committees take the place of governments, parliaments, parties, and classes and the partners' system takes the place of wage earners' system. The assessment of this revolution will take place after generations when the world turns into a world of Jamahiriyahs instead of republics.

In an interview which the Japanese television network the brother leader said that the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union was dictated by necessity. [passage omitted]

The brother leader said also that he believes that China is reaping the fruit of its policy of opening to the United States and the West and that this opening has brought nothing but calamities and an increase in unnecessary consumption. We must assert that without socialism China would have starved to death because socialism is what saved China from extinction and death. However, its opening to the West created elements who think of imitating rich Western Society. This is not to be achieved in China. He pointed out that Western societies, which we think are rich, actually face poverty and deprivation. The brother leader affirmed that any state that opens to the West will pay a high price and it is possible that it will be eliminated or be made to kneel down.

He said: I fear for the states that have adopted the opening to the West and the United States because the consequence will be very serious for the future of their people. [passage omitted]

At the end of his interview with the Japanese television network, the brother leader of the revolution talked about Japan and said that the Japanese people are creative. We hail their creative talent despite the fact that they have suffered U.S. nuclear bombs. Japanese people will never forgive the United States for this. The brother leader pointed out: We believe that Japan is a state that is not independent in its foreign and internal policies because it is a state that has no army, as the United States does not want that. This means that the consequences of World War II are still looming over Japan.

He affirmed that this is considered an insult to the Japanese people. Japan must be equal to the United States, Russia, and China. The leader also said, protectorate and tutelage must be lifted from the Japanese people. The great Japanese nation deserves to live like the U.S., Russian, and Chinese nations under the sun and on the land and with their heads held high. He said: Japan must fight this disgraceful hegemony so that it will play its role in the world, in peace, and in progress and so that we will be able to establish relations with it. We cannot estabish relations, as we wish, with Japan because it is not free.

Maltese Premier Cited on Bilateral Relations

LD1606194889 Tripoli JANA in English 1708 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] London, Al Sayf [June] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. Eddie Fenech Adami, the Maltese prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, expressed appreciation and pride at the level of the existing bilateral relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Malta in various fields.

During his reception today to the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's [words indistinct], Adami confirmed his country's wish and determination to consolidate and advance cooperation to serve the interests of both friendly countries.

Sudan

Further Coverage on Coup Attempt, Aftermath

Al-Mahdi Issues Statement

NC1906143389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stated that the abortive coup attempt was aimed at carrying out a bloody massacre in the Sudanese Constituent Assembly this morning.

Al-Mahdi stressed in a statement to the Constituent Assembly here today that an urgent investigation into the case will be conducted and decisive action will be taken accordingly to safeguard national sovereignty and democracy in Sudan. He added that the foiled attempt revealed by the General Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces is a link in the chain of conspiracies against democracy in Sudan.

On the other hand, the Sudanese prime minister stressed in his statement his government's desire that a cease-fire be declared in the south and the state of emergency in the country lifted in light of what the joint technical committee from the government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] will achieve. He praised SPLM leader Colonel John Garang's announcement on extending the cease-fire until the end of June and said that this is proof of a positive attitude.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi welcomed the joint statement issued on the Addis Ababa talks between the government and SPLM delegations. He also praised the facilities Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam had extended for these talks. Al-Mahdi said: We are looking toward the convocation of the constitutional conference on time, that is on 18 September, to draw up the Sudanese charter that will give everyone his due. We will work with all the available means to resolve the obstacles facing the convocation of the constitutional conference. He stressed that this conference will be held in the presence of observers from the United Nations and the OAU so that all can testify to the Sudanese Government's sincerety and seriousness in achieving peace in the south.

In his statement, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stressed that Sudan's foreign policy is based on nonalignement, good neighborliness with friendly and neighboring countries, and the exchange of benefits with all countries.

The Sudanese prime minister accused Chad of working to destabilize the situation in Darfur Province in western Sudan. He said: We do not want to interfere in Chad's internal affairs and we have no alliance with any Chadian party or any neighboring country against it. We are looking toward the establishment of good relations with Chad if it responds and desists from interfering in Sudan's internal affairs. Al-Mahdi added: Sudan will treat Chadians who have sought asylum in Sudan following the recent coup attempt there as refugees if Chad does not interfere in Sudan's affairs. We will attempt a reconciliation between these refugees and the Chadian Government, similar to what happened before with the Ibn-Oumar group.

Al-Mahdi went on to say that a national delegation comprising all political parties will go to Darfur to participate in the reconciliation conference and underline the united stand on achieving stability in that province.

Regarding the budget deficit, Al-Mahdi said that the investment expenses have led to a big increase in expenditures, thus raising the deficit this year to 4 billion pounds. The budget will reach 7.6 billion pounds in the year 1989-90. This is in addition to the deficit in the foreign budget which is estimated at 1.4 billion dollars. [all currencies as received]

Regarding the transport of foodstuffs to those suffering in the south, the Sudanese prime minister said that the target is to transport 121,000 tons of foodstuffs before autumn of this year. He added that 63,000 tons, 52 percent of the total required, have been transported so far under UN supervision.

Regarding the strengthening of the Armed Forces, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that a ministerial committee has been formed to continue the efforts to strengthen the Armed Forces and supply their needs from foreign sources.

Further on Statement

EA1906175389 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jun (SUNA)—Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister, has declared that the aim of the failed coup attempt was to cause a massacre within the Constituent Assembly. He said this today when making a statement with regard to the current political situation. He said that this had been the aim of the criminal plot which had sought to put an end to the democratic system.

He said that the Armed Forces General Command had issued a statement on Sunday [18 June] saying that the attempt had been foiled and that it had been planned and executed by a number of May [pro-Numayri] elements comprising serving officers and civilians, with the aim of overthrowing the ruling regime, seizing power and [word indistinct] democracy, in order to bring back the deposed Ja'far Numayri.

All the officers named have been placed under arrest and are in military custody. Al-Mahdi vehemently condemned the feverish activities of the bloodthirsty tyrant Numayri in Egypt. He said these activities [words indistinct] whoever sought to achieve the return of Numayri, in the Sudanese press. Al-Mahdi said that the government would counter this plan with [word indistinct] and would take whatever action was necessary in this respect, because there were some fools who had [word indistinct] democracy and had revolted to the extent of cooperating with Numayri, whom he described as a catspaw [mikhlab qitt] working to detonate Sudan and bring down democracy while serving the interests of others.

A highly-placed (?security) source said in a press statement today that the number of civilians under arrest (?who were under interrogation) and who it had been

established had acted in the interests of [words indistinct] stood at 20 out of 49 suspects, of whom [words indistinct] currently outside the country. The source said the security organizations were currently investigating the remaining suspects and those who it had been established had been engaged in activities on behalf of the defunct May regime.

The source said, in a statement to SUNA, that those who had been arrrested (?included) Kamil Mahjub, Ilyas al-Amin, Dr Yakrawi al-Na'im, Security Colonel (Rtd) Salah Nujud, Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) 'Abd-al-Ghaffar al-Numayri, Dr 'Uthman Abu-al-Qasim, Hashim al-Zubayri, Colonel (Rtd) Kamal Khidir Idris Barakiyah, Security Colonel (Rtd) Taha 'Uthman Shahadah, Al-Fatih Bashir Numayri, Al-Tayyib Muhammad Ahmad Numayri, Kamal Muhammad Sinadah, Salah Matar, 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykh, Adjutant [Musa'id] (Rtd) Babikr Yayhya Muhammad, Sergeant (Rtd) Abkar Adam, Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah, Fakhr al-Anbiya' Hasan, and Muhammad Ahmad Mustafa.

The prime minister's national security adviser said in a statement that the office of the prosecutor-general and the police had begun interrogating the civilians and soldiers under arrest. Of these 18 were soldiers. The adviser said that the national security organization had not arrested anyone but had made information available to the relevant quarters.

With regard to the arrest of Prof Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah, the editor-in-chief of "AL-WATAN," who had recently begun publishing a press interview with the deposed Numayri—conducted recently in Cairo and published in Khalifah's paper—in which Numayri had attacked the democratic regime in Sudan, saying he would return to power within 4 weeks, the adviser said that Khalifah had been arrested in spite of opposition from the interior minister.

Numayri on Coup Attempt

AB1906181289 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] The man who stands accused of inspiring the coup plot in Sudan is former President Numayri. He has been living in neighboring Egypt since the Army overthrew him in April 1985. On the line to Cairo, Robin White asked Mr Numayri what he had to say about the allegations.

[Begin recording] [Numayri] I would say that the Sudanese Government is a weak government now and they are trying to prolong their stay and authority. They are seeking... [changes thought] they want to hit all the people who are supporting Numayri and the May revolution.

[White] But were you involved in a coup plot yourself?

[Numayri] I am not involved, but the people inside are trying to do the work or to involve themselves against the government because they hate it, they do not like. [sentence as heard] They are asking me to come back.

[White] I understand that you have had discussions with some Army officers in Egypt.

[Numayri] Yes.

[White] But were you discussing with them plans for you to go back?

[Numayri] I did not discuss with them any plan of overthrowing the government. I discussed with them their problems in the Army and the problems of Sudan in general. When they come here on their leaves or when they come here on courses, they visit me in my house and they talk things over with me.

[White] Do you have any plans at all to try and return to the Sudan?

[Numayri] I want the occasion to return to the Sudan, Sudan is my country. If I find the (?guns) I will go back today.

[White] If you find the guns you are prepared to go back?

[Numayri] Yes.

[White] But you are saying that there was no coup plot scheduled for now?

[Numayri] No, I have not scheduled that, but I think that now the government is very weak and they have no clear plan to do anything for the people.

[White] Have friends of yours been arrested in Khartoum?

[Numayri] Yes, a lot of friends. All my people are arrested now. Over 1,000, since yesterday they have arrested over 1,000.

[White] Mr Numayri, some people might say that it would be better for Sudan if you were to be quiet.

[Numayri] I should be quiet?

[White] Yes. Aren't you just stirring up trouble in Sudan?

[Numayri] No, I am not making trouble. The government is making trouble and the people come running to me here. I will not stop talking. [end recording]

MENA on Coup Attempt

NC1906104089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jun (MENA)—A total of 14 officers and 14 civilians have so far been arrested by the Sudanese security authorities. The arrested officers include six brigadier generals, two colonels, one lieutenant colonel, and five majors. Among the arrested civilians are six retired officers. The Sudanese authorities will carry out more arrests today of individuals who had called for the return of former President Ja'far Numayri and who planned to carry out a coup attempt at 1000 today, during a speech by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the Constituent Assembly.

Security sources say that there are 48 persons on the list of suspects and that the plotters planned to arrest the members of the Armed Forces General Command, the ministers, the political leaders, and the deputies of the Constituent Assembly during the assembly's session today.

Press sources noted that Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah, editor-in-chief of the newspaper AL-WATAN, was arrested yesterday. He recently conducted extensive interviews with former President Numayri in Cairo.

The newspaper AL-SUDANI notes that several high-ranking officers were involved in the failed coup attempt. The coup leader, who is a lieutenant general, has not been arrested yet.

The newspaper AL-KHARTOUM today published the names of some officers involved in the coup attempt. They include Brigadier Generals Ahmad Fadlallah, Salah al-Dawi, 'Ali Yusuf Jamil, and Kamal 'Abd-al-Majid; Colonels Sadiq 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Hasan al-Khayr; Lieutenant Colonel Abu-Sin; and Majors Salah al-Dardiri and Usamah al-Zayn.

The Armed Forces General Command issued a statement yesterday in which it announced that it had foiled a coup attempt by a number of officers and civlians.

Papers on Post-Coup Arrests

LD1906113489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, June 19 (KUNA)—Fourteen senior Army officers and a number of civilians have been arrested in connection with the coup attempt which the Army said was foiled Sunday, newspapers reported Monday.

The Khartoum daily AL-SIYASAH reported Monday that the arrested officers included six brigadiers, two colonels, a lieutenant colonel and five majors.

The Armed Forces statement said the foiled coup attempt was masterminded by Army officers and civilians who are loyal to former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. Numayri was deposed by a popular uprising in April 1985.

AL-SIYASAH said that the security authorities have "conducted an extensive arrest operation" among civilians who advocate the return of Numayri to power and who are behind the coup plot.

Among the arrested civilians is the publisher and editor-in-chief of Khartoum's tri-weekly AL-WATAN (NATION) newspaper Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah, who recently conducted an extensive interview with Numayri in exile in Egypt.

The arrest of Khalifah was reported by AL-WATAN in its today's edition, pointing out that he had been arrested "under the claims of participation" in the attempted coup.

In that interview, which is being serialized by the paper now, Numayri said that he is making a come back to power in Sudan within 4 weeks.

According to AL-SIYASAH newspaper the plotters had fixed Monday (today) as the zero-hour for the carrying out of the military coup.

It added that the plotters had chosen the Constituent Assembly, where Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is due to deliver speech, as the site for the beginning of the operation.

The session will be attended by all executive and political leaderships.

Al-Mahdi's address is expected to focus on the attempted coup, talks between the government and the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, Sudan-Chad relations and other issues.

The Sudanese cabinet scheduled an emergency session Monday to discuss the coup attempt.

Arrested Civilians Named

NC1906170789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jun (MENA)—A responsible Sudanese source said today that 20 civilians have been taken into custody on charges of carrying out actions in favor of the May regime (the regime of former President Ja'far Numayri). He said that the total number of the suspects working in favor of this regime is 49, 7 of whom are outside the country.

Tne Sudanese official said that among those arrested were Kamil Mahjub; Ilyas al-Amin; Lr Yakrawi al-Na'im; Security Colonel Salah Najud, retired; Security Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Numayri [not retired

as heard]; Dr 'Uthman Abu-al-Qasim; Hashim al-Zubayri; Colonel Kamal Khadir, retired; Idris Barakiyah; Colonel Taha 'Uthman Shahadah, retired; Al-Fatih Bashir Numayri; Al-Tayyib Muhammad Ahmad Numayri; Kamil Mubarak Sinadah; Salah Matar; 'Abd-al-Qadir; 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shaykh; Warrant Officer Abkar Yihya Muhammad, retired; Sergeant Abkar Adam, retired; AL-WATAN Chief Editor Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah; Fakhr-al-Anbiya' Hasan; and Muhammad Ahmad Mustafa.

Chadian Diplomat Confirms Troops at Border

AB1906164989 Paris AFP in French 1426 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jun (AFP)—Ali Hawan, the charge d'affaires at the Chadian Embassy in Khartoum, today confirmed the presence of his country's troops at the Chad-Sudan border. In a statement to AFP, the diplomat however stated that the Chadian Army had never crossed the border. "It is quite normal for Chad to resort to this measure to defend its territory," he stressed. The diplomat then blamed the deterioration of their bilateral relations on the presence in Sudan of some elements of the Chadian opposition and on the refusal of the Sudanese Government in April to receive a high-ranking Chadian Government delegation charged with delivering a message from President Hissein Habre to the Sudanese leadership.

Furthermore, recalling that his government had warned Khartoum against the presence of a "Libyan Islamic Legion" in western Sudan, Mr Hawan stressed that it was not in the interest of the two countries to allow a possible military intervention against Chad from Sudan. He, however, pointed out that his government considers this affair as "purely domestic as long as this legion remains inside Sudanese territory." Mr Hawan, who returned to his post in Khartoum last week, finally denied that he had been recalled by his government. He then stated that Chad would spare no efforts toward reinforcing bilateral relations.

About 10 days ago, the independent daily "AL-AYYAM" wrote that the Sudanese intelligence services had been informed about the massing of Chadian troops at three points along the border as well as the movement of military material toward this border from many points inside Chadian territory. The newspaper also reported on recent infiltrations by Chadian patrols into Sudanese territory to seek the temporary bases of Chadian rebels who entered the Darfur Region after the 1 April coup attempt against the Ndjamena regime.

Kuwait

Bulgarian Envoy Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD1906172489 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin this evening summoned Bulgaria's ambassador in Kuwait. An authorized source at the ministry told KUNA that Mr al-Shahin expressed to the ambassador the Kuwaiti Government's interest in and concern over reports to the effect that Muslims in the People's Republic of Bulgaria had been subjected to practices infringing upon their freedom to express their Islamic beliefs, a matter that has aroused Islamic feelings.

The source also said that Mr al-Shahin also expressed to the Bulgarian ambassador Kuwait's trust in the Bulgarian Government's ability to tackle this matter that has aroused the interest of the Islamic world.

'No Truth' to Rumors of Strain With Netherlands

JN1906140189 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 Jun 89 p 1

[By Yusuf 'Alawnah]

[Text] Relations between Kuwait and the Netherlands have not deteriorated and there is absolutely no truth in the rumours that a strain in relations between the two countries has developed.

This categorical statement was issued by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as a rebuttal to a report that appeared in the Dutch newspaper, NRC-HANDELSBLAD that relations had deteriorated due to a financial dispute involving an amount of $6.5 million related to commercial ventures.

In a statement to newsmen, Shaykh Sabah said that a financial issue cannot affect relations between states as such disputes can be solved amicably. Shaykh Sabah stressed that the Kuwaiti ambassador to Holland and the Dutch ambassador to Kuwait are cooperating with a high degree of cordiality.

Government Affirms Anti-Apartheid Commitment

LD1606202889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1955 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Excerpt] United Nations, June 16 (KUNA)—Kuwait voiced Friday its continued commitment to helping the struggling majority in South Africa defeat apartheid. The Kuwait Government's statement was made on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the armed attacks by South Africa against demonstrating students on June 16, 1976.

"Kuwait takes this opportunity to call on the international community, especially the Western countries, to stop its dealings with the South African regime, and to impose the military and economic sanctions as requested by U.N. resolutions until the regime ends apartheid and allows majority rule," the statement said.

The meeting in the Trusteeship Council chamber was organized by the Special Committee Against Apartheid.

The Kuwait Government recalled that it has participated actively in every international effort aimed at implementing the sanctions, and called on international public opinion to support it.

This was clear from Kuwait's role, as chairman of a task force of an intergovernmental group, in pressing for the strengthening of the U.N. oil embargo against South Africa, the statement said.

"Kuwait will not spare any effort in fighting racism, apartheid or helping the black majority to achieve (?victory) for democracy, equality, justice and freedom," the statement said. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Further Reportage on Visit of Syrian Delegation

Talks End; Agreements Signed

JN1906201689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, conveyed a message from Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, to his brother Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them as well as the situation in the region.

Al-Zu'bi also conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's wishes to Comrade al-Bid and the fraternal Yemeni people. Comrade al-Bid also asked Al-Zu'bi to convey his greetings and wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as his thanks and appreciation to President al-Asad for his interest in promoting fraternal relations between Syria and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. This took place during Comrade Salim al-Bid's reception in honor of Al-Zu'bi today. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, attended the meeting. It was also attended by Salih Abu-Bakr Ibn-Husaynun, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals; Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of foreign affairs; and Muhammad 'Abduh Shatfah [name as heard], PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them in order to serve the aspirations of the Syrian and Yemeni people and the pan-Arab interests. Accompanied by Salih Abu-Bakr Ibn-Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister; and Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of foreign affairs, the

prime minister and his delegation visited the museums of martyrs 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il and 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar. The prime minister and his delegation also visited an Aden oil refinery and a research center for marine life and acquainted himself with work there.

The official talks between the Syrian Arab side lead by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and the PDRY side lead by Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the Council of Ministers, ended in Aden today. The members of the two delegations attended the talks. At the end of the talks, they signed the minutes of the talks, which were held between the two sides during the visit. It was signed for the Syrian side by Mahmud al-Zu'bi and for the PDRY side by Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man. Al-Zu'bi and Nu'man also signed an agreement on the formation of the Syrian-PDRY joint committee. The members of the two delegations attended.

They also signed a protocol for a joint cooperation in the areas of economy, agriculture, transportation, media, tourism, commodity exchanges, health and planning. Al-Zu'bi and Nu'man gave speeches, expressing confidence that the close and fraternal relations between the two countries will expand.

Concludes Visit, Departs

EA1906221889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, and his delegation left Aden this evening after ending a 3-day official visit to Democratic Yemen at the invitation of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and prime minister, who hosted official discussions on a number of issues of concern to the two sisterly countries during the visit.

Present at the Syrian delegation's departure from Aden International Airport were Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and prime minister, a number of brother members of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee, Presidium ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Democratic Yemen.

Official talks between the Yemeni and Syrian delegations ended this evening with the signing of a number of agreements and bilateral protocols which stressed the desire of the two sisterly countries to promote bilateral relations reflecting the higher interests of the Yemeni and Syrian peoples, by means of developing and strengthening economic, commercial, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation.

Qatar

'Source' Voices Regrets Over Bulgaria's Policy

JN1906124289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Doha, 19 Jun (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has expressed its deep concern over the measures and practices employed against members of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry also expressed deep regret over Bulgaria's deportation of thousands of Muslim Turks from its territory.

In a statement to QNA today, the source called on the Bulgarian Government to reconsider these measures and respect the human rights of the Turkish Muslim minority.

The source also asked the Bulgarian Government to resort to the agreements between it and the Turkish Government regarding the regulation of emigration between the two countries.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Returns From Casablanca Summit

JN1906205089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2020 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], returned to Abu Dhabi this evening from Rabat after he participated in the emergency Arab summit which was recently held in Casablanca.

His highness held talks with Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II as part of the framework of discussions and contacts between the two leaders to the benefit of the Arabs and Muslims.

Heir Apparent Addresses Arab Parliamentarians

JN1806164789 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 18 (GNA)—Crown prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Zayid urged the Arab parliamentarians to exert every possible effort to support the heroic Palestinian uprising against the repressive Zionist occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Arab nation in Palestine is witnessing the heroic intifadah [uprising], which has entered its 19th month without abating and offering every day a new convoy of martyrs, who had fallen while struggling against the most brutal and terrorist force," Shaykh Khalifah said.

He added that the tragic situation in Lebanon also required special attention to put an end to the bloodshed and destruction that had plagued that Arab country for the past 14 years.

The crown prince made the statement on the eve of the fifth meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) scheduled to open here today.

Welcoming Arab parliamentarians to Abu Dhabi, Shaykh Khalifah said the meeting attracted special importance because it was being held shortly after the emergency Arab summit meeting, which was held in Casablanca Morocco, last month.

"APU's conference constitutes a natural extention to the Arab summit, which has laid down the appropriate and positive bases for an effective Arab solidarity to face the causes that confront our Arab nation, "Shaykh Khalifah said.

Syrian Assembly Speaker Meets With Counterpart
JN1806064589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah reviewed yesterday with Hilal Lutah, speaker of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], the items on the agenda of the 19th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] Council as well as the agenda of the fifth conference of the APU and the ways to render its meetings a success.

The views were identical on the overall topics and issues on the agenda. During his meeting with Lutah yesterday, Qaddurah affirmed the Syrian People's Assembly delegation's eagerness to render sucessful the meetings of this conference to serve the common interests of the Arab nation as well as its struggle against imperialist and Zionist schemes.

The People's Assembly speaker stressed the need to rally Arab capabilities to confront the Zionist schemes which seek to consecrate the occupation of the occupied Arab territories and face up to the policy of extermination and expulsion being pursued by Israel against our people in the occupied Arab territories.

During this meeting, Lutah paid tribute to the great and positive role being played by Syria under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He praised the president's wise, matchless, and clear-sighted policy which contributed to the success of the recent Casablanca Arab summit and added: This policy which is being pursued by steadfast Syria has turned Syria into a fortress of confrontation and resistance and enabled it to confront the Israeli enemy and its aggressive and expansionist policy.

Yesterday, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received respectively Ahmad al-Lawzi, president of the Jordanian Senate, and the delegation accompanying him; ('Abbas Daily), head of the Algerian delegation; and Rashid al-Sulh, head of the Lebanese delegation.

During these meeting, the talks dealt with the agenda of the meetings of the 19th session of the APU Council and that of the fifth APU conference and with efforts to render them successful to ensure the creation of an effective Arab solidarity that would serve the pan-Arab interests of the Arab nation.

Yemen Arab Republic

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Abu Dhabi
JN1606181689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] A Consultative Council delegation headed by brother (Yusuf al-Shihawi), speaker of the council and member of the Standing Committee, left for Abu Dhabi today to participate in the work of the 19th round of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] and the fifth conference of the union, which will be held in the United Arab Emirates during the period of 18-20 June.

In a statement to SABA', the brother speaker of the Consultative Council clarified that the current round of the APU will discuss a number of parliamentary issues, the most prominent of which is the role of Arab parliamentarians in serving Arab causes in the international forums. He affirmed Egypt's return to the APU. The delegation includes brothers Hamud 'Atif, 'Abdallah Ghurafi, Muhammad Abu-Fari', and 'Ali al-Wassas—members of the Consultative Council.

Ramadan Returns From Alexandria ACC Meetings
JN1706180489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad this evening after participating in the Alexandria meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] leaders.

Taha Yasin Ramadan chaired the meetings of the ACC Ministerial Council, which preceded the meetings of the Arab leaders concluded yesterday.

Upon his return, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the meetings of the ACC leaders, which were concluded in Alexandria yesterday, constitute the beginning stage of laying sound and proper foundations for the ACC structure and organizations, beginning with the General Secretariat and ending with the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council.

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that all the plans approved placed the ACC structure and organizations on the road to implementing the resolutions endorsed, as well as those that will be endorsed in the future.

Ramadan referred to the recommendations made by the Ministerial Council, which held its meetings prior to the Alexandria summit meetings, including those on the legal and judicial agreement, which will contribute to the unification of working formulas in the legal aspect among the ACC member states.

The first deputy prime minister also spoke of ways to facilitate the movement of nationals of the ACC member states, considering that they constitute one arena, and the establishment of an aviation union for ACC member states tasked with specifying the measures needed to facilitate the movement of citizens and also with developing cooperation among the national airlines of the member states during the coming years.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that the leaders discussed the items placed on their agenda displaying the spirit of a team and not four parties. Thus, he added, the discussions were fruitful and distinguished in their results, which were reached in a very short time.

Ramadan added that the discussions among the leaders on the political aspect were characterized by a serious frankness and objectivity. Therefore, he expressed his confidence that we were on solid ground, and that there was optimism over the future of the ACC as a nucleus for an Arab grouping encompassing the pan-Arab arena.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him were welcomed upon arrival by RCC member Sa'dun Shakir, a number of cabinet ministers, the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Nizar Hamdun Leaves for Hungar, CSSR, Albania
JN1906131789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Nizar Hamdun, Foreign Ministry under secretary, today left Baghdad for Budapest on an official visit to Hungary within the framework of a 1-week tour that will also include Czechoslovakia and Albania.

During his tour, the Foreign Ministry undersecretary will hold talks with officials in those countries on subjects dealinag with bilateral relations and means to improve them. His discussions will also touch on a number of international issues of mutual concern.

Ramadan Receives Message From Polish Premier
JN1906144089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has received a written message from Mieczyslaw Rakowski, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers. The message deals with relations of bilateral cooperation and horizons of their developments in all fields. The message was delivered by Dr Witold Jurasz, Polish ambassador in Baghdad, when he was received today by the first deputy prime minister.

The message is related to following up the economic, trade, and development agreements that were signed during the visit made by the chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers to Iraq last April. It also deals with the issues that will be discussed during the visit scheduled to be made by the first deputy prime minister to Poland with the aim of continuing work on developing and broadening horizons of bilateral cooperation in all fields in a manner that corresponds to the new phase and the developing relations between the two countries.

Planning Minister on Development, Regional Issues
PM0506142289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jun 89 p 5

[Interview with Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj by Hisham al-Diwan in Kuwait]

[Excerpts] [Al-Diwan] What has been the impact of the Iraq-Iran war on development plans in Iraq?

[Faraj] War—any war anywhere—has its negative effects on economic and development matters—in addition to human and material losses. As you know, the Iranian

side imposed an aggressive war on Iraq, and the reasons for that war are known to everyone. Iraq was making great strides in most fields, building and shaping an economic base and a solid system, but there were attempts to obstruct the wheel of development and progress, especially following Iraq's tangible regional and international headway.

However, the development process continued uninterrupted and bore fruit. Plans were prepared and implemented annually. Scores of development projects—some of which obviously served military efforts—were realized. During the war the military industry developed and consequently Iraq managed to supply some of basic arms and equipment needed to repulse aggression. The development process continued and achieved good results on the fighting front and the building front. These are the first lessons which any Arab or foreign observer can learn from Iraq's situation and policy during the war period. [passage omitted]

[Al-Diwan] During your visit to Kuwait you signed a memorandum of technical understanding. Will it mark the start of the signing of similar agreements in other fields?

[Faraj] As you know, the Iraqi leadership is aware of the importance of cooperation with all the Arab states. Kuwait is a fraternal and responsible state to which we are bound with staunch brotherly relations and with which there has always been cooperation. There is a huge project for supplying Kuwait with water. Other projects in that field are being examined. And we hope that trade activities will expand in the period ahead, especially in this period of peace. I met with the fraternal trade minister and discussed the matter, and we hope that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti trade committee will meet shortly in Baghdad to discuss the idea of expanding cooperation not only at the official level, but at the private sector level as well. [passage omitted]

[Al-Diwan] Why has the dinar exchange rate remained low outside Iraq?

[Faraj] The dinar question was chiefly linked to war conditions and speculations in that connection. I believe it will improve substantially in the coming few years. This situation is linked to the economic situation, import problems, and the huge foreign manpower in Iraq. All these matters will be resolved soon. We are proud of the Iraqi dinar, even if the external exchange rate is lower than we would like.

[Al-Diwan] Will the Iraqi currency be changed?

[Faraj] Not at all. There are no thoughts and no intention of doing so: These are tendentious rumors. The Iraqi currency will not be changed. We are proud of the Iraqi dinar and it will remain as a currency and an Iraqi symbol. Its price will increase and we will challenge all the other currencies.

[Al-Diwan] With regard to the war, can we say that it has ended?

[Faraj] It is difficult to say that it has ended. We say that it has stopped, and that term will remain valid unless a peace agreement is concluded. In fact we consider that without such an agreement the war still stands both in legal terms and in reality. [passage omitted]

Indian Trade Delegation Leaves After Visit

JN1806104789 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 18, INA—The delegation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry today left here after a several-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the delegation held talks with officials in the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on means of promoting trade and industrial cooperation in addition to the contribution of Indian companies in the development witnessed by Iraq.

Transport Minister Returns From N. Yemen Visit

JN1006071689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications and President Saddam Husayn's envoy, returned here last night after conveying messages to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic; Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Awqaf Minister Returns to Baghdad 9 Jun

JN0906185689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 Jun (INA)—'Abdallah Fadil, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and minister of awqaf and religious affairs, returned to Baghdad today following a tour of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH's 'Firm Position' on Peace Cited

U.S. Businessmen Arrive for Cooperation Talks

JN0606095289 Baghdad INA in English 0914 GMT 6 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 6, INA—A delegation representing the Iraqi-American working body and comprising businessmen from several U.S. industrial, economic and financial establishments arrived in Baghdad last night on a several days visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Robert Aboud [name as received], member of the body said the visit of the businessmen is after holding talks with Iraqi officials on finding new prospects for cooperation in the oil, industrial and trade fields on the official and private levels.

The Iraqi-U.S. working body was set up in 1985 following the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States.

The body represents 57 major American companies and establishments in the financial, agricultural, communications, industry, oil and cars industry fields.

AL-THAWRAH on 'Firm Position' on Peace

JN2006093589 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 20, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad stressed that Iraq has demonstrated firm position and credibility towards peace and that others (Iran) should prove seriousness and credibility in their work for peace and on the table of direct negotiations.

The daily organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party said that, while much talk was made on moderation and extremism in Iran and future probabilities, Iraq is only conerned with the process of peace with Iran... the major and important affairs is that Iran rulers should discard the course of expansion and aggression and prove their good intention and desire in realizing lasting, just and comprehensive peace between the two countries.

It added that over eight years of ferocious war, Iraq's principles did not waver nor its confidence and faith in the ultimate victory and defeat of aggression were shaken.

AL-THAWRAH pointed out that Iraq had actually shown credibility and decisively settled the war and achieved great victory in August 1988 while the Iranian regime found itself compelled to accept the UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 and ceasefire and start direct negotiations with Iraq to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace between the two countries.

Soviets Accept Election Proposal, PLO Position

TA1906110489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Yesterday Jerusalem received a report on the talks between U.S. officials and their Soviet counterparts. The report states that the Soviets expressed their agreement in principle to the election proposal and requested they be allowed to state their views on the nature of these elections. The U.S. officials concluded from this that the Soviet Union is adopting the PLO position and the conditions expressed by the organization's representatives in the talks in Tunis.

The Americans announced that they are willing to include the Soviet Union in the process, provided the latter shows the proper measure of responsibility and makes a significant contribution to furthering the peace process. By this, the United States means halting all arms deliveries to Libya, restraining Syria, exerting a moderating influence on the Palestinian terrorist organizations, renewing relations with Israel, and other similar steps.

It has been decided to resume the talks in the near future. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem also learned yesterday that the PLO has already made it clear to the United States that it has no objections to Faysal al-Husayni acting as one of its senior representatives in any negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

'Unequivocal Reservations' to Soviet Plan

TA2006070689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The United States is favorably examining a Soviet proposal to convene the five permanent members of the UN Security Council for informal consultations on the conditions for holding elections in the territories. This was learned in Jerusalem yesterday from a report on the talks held last weekend by Dennis Ross, the State Department's policy planning staff director, and Soviet Foreign Ministry officials in charge of Middle East affairs.

Senior officials in Jerusalem believe that the prime minister and the Likud ministers will voice their unequivocal reservations about the proposal which, although it deals with the idea of elections and is limited to informal consultations, brings to mind the makeup of the international conference.

Although the five permanent members—the United States, the Soviet Union, the PRC, France, and Britain—do not need the Israeli Government's approval to hold joint consultations, especially when there is no question of inviting the PLO or any other party involved in the conflict, the United States is seeking Israel's blessing because at this point the administration is trying very hard to avoid friction with the Israeli Government. Jerusalem believes that the Israeli objections will forestall the realization of the idea.

The U.S. officials took pains to emphasize to the Soviets that so long as efforts to carry out the election plan continue, there is no room for a return to the idea of an international conference. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker expressed himself in a similar vein last week during his meeting in Washington with Justice Minister Dan Meridor. Nevertheless, the Americans say that if the current move were to fail, new courses of action would be examined, which would include a revision of the idea of an international conference. In view of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement that the solution of the Palestinian problem, which would start with elections in the territories, must take place in parallel with the implementation of the cabinet decision to bring about peace accords with other Arab countries and solve the problem of the refugees, it has been learned that the United States has recently made it clear to Israel that there is no room for dealing with other issues before the election plan is realized.

At one time, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had demanded that the cabinet plan should make the elections contingent on the realization of its other clauses. In view of the opposition voiced by Ministers Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, however, it was decided to compromise on a noncommittal wording whereby "it would be better to simultaneously carry out" all the moves.

Ben-Aharon Interviewed

TA2006073689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Gad Becker and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Becker] Good morning, Mr Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Becker] To start things off, let us hear your reaction to this new idea of an unofficial meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to discuss and eventually support the idea of elections in the territories. Do you consider this a good idea?

[Ben-Aharon] First of all, the question should be whether this is indeed an idea. The answer is no. The Soviets periodically make suggestions, so that they—by virtue of these proposals—will be able to enter the process on an equal footing to that of the United States. That is why they first insisted on an international conference and then suggested some kind of forum in which the PLO would also participate, with the superpowers fulfilling a leading role, and other similar ideas.

The United States politely rejects these suggestions and tells the Soviets, just as it informs the Arab states, that the only proposal on the international community's agenda is the election proposal initiated by the Israeli Government, along with the other clauses appearing in our peace initiative. The United States deserves credit for telling this to the Europeans, the Arab States, and also to the PLO in Tunis in the course of their dialogue. The United States tells everyone that this is the opportunity to examine and agree to the Israeli proposal.

[Dan] This morning we heard that the United States is examining the Soviet proposal. Do you already know that it has been rejected?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, I know this with certainty. Perhaps the United States has not flatly and totally rejected it. This is, in essence, the formula it adopts. The United States does not wish to push the Soviets completely out of the circle. The United States believes that the Soviets should be included in the process, even if only to stop them from causing trouble through their influence over several elements in the Arab world. That is why the United States wants their participation, but only according to a scenario in which the United States plays the leading role.

[Becker] But certainly rejecting the Soviet proposals will not serve to further their participation, and I would like to ask: What is so bad in this proposal? The proposal mentions an informal meeting without any authority, a meeting meant to eventually garner wide international support for the concept of the election initiative. This sounds very positive, and the PLO is not even a participant.

[Ben-Aharon] Nobody knows better than the United States how a consolidated idea with some chance of success can change when one submits it for discussion in a larger forum. What comes out will be an entirely different kettle of fish than we planned. The United States wants to avoid such a development, as it knows that the Chinese, the British, and the French will be sitting next to the Soviets. Everyone will have their own ideas, intentions, and ambitions to play a role. This may castrate the idea at the very beginning. I therefore believe that the United States is consistent in its approach and, to the best of our knowledge, they are telling the Arab states exactly the same thing—namely, to first react to the Israeli proposal; only then will any requests for clarifications or amendments be dealt with.

[Dan] You keep on talking about the U.S. position. Can we understand from your statements that Israel will oppose such a proposal if it is submitted to us?

[Ben-Aharon] The problem is not one of winning international support for our plan. We want partners here, in the field. But we do not wish international elements to cause problems or torpedo the thing. The United States is taking care of this aspect of the issue to the best of its ability. As to our partners for negotiations—first, the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el living here with us; second, those who support them and are linked to them, namely the Arab states, with Egypt at their head—we are tossing them the gauntlet.

[Becker] Earlier you mentioned what the United States tells the PLO in their dialogue in Tunis. As you are already so knowledgeable about the subject, perhaps you could address the reports in the media that the United States is about to upgrade these contacts and send their messenger Dennis Ross to talk to the PLO representatives, and that there are developments regarding the possibility that the PLO will allow representatives from inside the territories to discuss the election proposal with Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, you know that Israel's declared position is that we are not interested or curious about the goings-on in Tunis. We have stated this very clearly to the U.S. Administration...

[Becker, interrupting] But nevertheless, we seem to have an idea about what goes on there. It appears...

[Ben-Aharon, interrupting] ...that the U.S. dialogue with the PLO does not help the chances for understanding and promoting the elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. On the contrary, it hinders it. The Americans occasionally report to the media or tell us that they are simultaneously exerting their influence both in Tunis and here. It is known that some U.S. officials and representatives attached to the different U.S. delegations here in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem meet with the Arab Palestinians. We told them that if they could influence the local Palestinians—but not in Tunis, Tunis can only get in the way—and tell them that this is their chance, and perhaps their last golden opportunity, then we bless these attempts.

[Dan] Just one last sentence at the end. Are you aware of the compliments you were given by a very unexpected source? You were praised by the moderator on Moscow Radio. Have you heard of this?

[Ben-Aharon] I imagine he was referring to the statements attributed to me on the issue of Palestinian self-determination.

[Becker] He probably misunderstood you.

[Ben-Aharon] No, I think he understood me quite well. I think that the Arab Palestinians who live here had an opportunity which they missed. Now they are being given another chance to run their own affairs, just as has already been stipulated in the Camp David formula. Anyone who recalls the autonomy negotiations held at the time with Egypt will remember that they stated that very important affairs would be under the jurisdiction of the self-ruling bodies. Now, I do not want to play with semantics, but as for the right to run matters by themselves, we have no desire to impose our rule on them; we

just want to safeguard Israel's interests in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in all matters and to achieve an understanding with this self-government. If we achieve this understanding, I think we will have taken a giant step toward peace in our region.

[Becker] Thank you, Mr Ben-Aharon.

PLO Official Cited on 'Conditions' for Elections

JN2006104089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] At the annual congress of the National Association of Arab Americans in Washington, Dr Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman, a PLO information official, set eight PLO conditions to approve holding elections in the territories. These conditions are: the withdrawal of Israeli troops from populated areas in cities, villages, and camps; holding elections under international supervision; the participation of East Jerusalem Palestinians in the elections; abrogating what he termed laws which curb freedom of expression in the territories; releasing Palestinian detainees; the return of Palestinian deportees from the West Bank and Gaza Strip; guaranteeing the security of voters and election candidates; and Israel's abidance by the results of elections regarding those who will be elected and their programs.

Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman added that a ninth condition must be added to the eight conditions. It is that the PLO should learn how these elections will be linked to the peace process and how this process will be organized.

Egypt Reportedly Rejects Election Proposals

TA1906124989 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jun 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Cairo—Informed political sources said yesterday that Egypt rejected an Israeli proposal to find Palestinian personalities who, together with Egypt, would participate in discussions on the procedures for the proposed elections in the occupied territories.

The same sources said that the Israeli Government threatened to hold the elections on the basis of Israeli laws if agreement is not reached on a system of regulations for these elections.

The sources added that Egypt turned down another Israeli proposal on forming a joint Egyptian-Israeli committee that would be in permanent session until the peace process in the region is launched and the concept of elections is implemented. Egypt made its acceptance of this proposal conditional on the occurrence of a positive and fundamental change in Israel's stance toward the PLO.

Mordekhay To Replace Mitzna' in Central Command

TA1906161989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, will become commander of the Central Command in place of Maj Gen 'Amram Mitzna'.

Maj Gen Matan Vilna'i, head of the Manpower Branch in the General Staff, will be appointed commander of the Southern Command. Gen Vilna'i will be replaced in the Manpower Branch by Maj Gen Ran Goren, who was deputy commander of the Air Force.

The appointments were decided on jointly by the defense minister and chief of staff. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the generals were informed of the appointments this morning.

Contact With PRC 'Frozen' After Recent Unrest

TA1906141189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Jun 89 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Contacts on expanding ties between Israel and the PRC, and the establishment of an Israeli academic center in the PRC, have been frozen following the recent unrest there. Israeli sources reported that despite press reports at the end of last week, COPCP [name as published], the government company dealing with developing trade between Israel and the PRC, was not disbanded, but its aims have been changed. The sources said that some of the changes were the result of the resignation of the chairman, Dr Yitzhaq Minervi, the assistant director-general of the Foreign Ministry for economic affairs, [title as published], who was one of the initiators of the company.

Commentary Urges Caution in Evaluating Iran

TA1606200089 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Jun 89 p 12

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Iran or Iraq?"]

[Text] The developments in Iran in the wake of Khomeyni's death will shortly trigger the old argument in Israel over whom we should support: Iraq or Iran. Since Israel is famous for failing to draw lessons from past mistakes, the risks are very great indeed that it will again fall into the Iranian trap.

Theoretically, developments in Iran seem promising: It transpires that the leadership in Tehran prefers a pragmatic line, and is seeking to slowly extricate itself from the restrictions imposed on both foreign and domestic policies by the murderous religious dogmatism of the revolutionary Iran. This is first and foremost reflected in the Iranian Army's position: On the day following Khomeyni's death the Army released a joint statement

with the Revolution Guards in which it conveyed support for the Army commander, who is also the parliament speaker, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while "expressing gratitude" to Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his activity on behalf of the Army. This contained a dual message: both support for Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and letting the imams of the next regime know that the Army does not favor resuming the war with Iraq (since Hashemi-Rafsanjani's "activity" was that of stopping the war and rescuing the Iranian Army from Basra's quagmires).

The imams do not like the Army to intervene in politics, and the announcement of support boomeranged against Hashemi-Rafsanjani. A mere 2 hours following the joint communique, the imams appointed President 'Ali Khamene'i as Khomeyni's successor. In so doing they disqualified the Army's candidate, but not the policy which the Army wants to implement, that of bringing Iran into a post-revolutionary era, as Khamene'i too is considered a member of the pragmatic wing of the Iranian leadership.

It is still too early to determine the chances for reaching a new era in light of the revolutionary gales which are still buffeting Iran. Still, thanks to the Army's support for a peaceful policy, it is very reasonable that we shall soon witness renewed Iranian efforts to return to the family of nations.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad may have heard as much in person. During his stay in Tehran it was officially announced, to his dissatisfaction, that the war against Iraq will not resume, and that the cease-fire will be boosted (as a step toward the elimination of the conflict).

These developments would undoubtedly be desirable for Israel as they contain the potential for the waning of the revolutionary Islamic ardor which is the pulsating force permeating the intifadah [uprising] and Hizballah activity in southern Lebanon against the security zone and Israel's northern border. It should be noted, however, that the militant Islamic groups active in the territories possess more than enough revolutionary fuel, without the need to adopt slogans of other revolutions.

Still, the potential for calming the Khomeynist revolution which is emerging after Khomeyni's death also contains great dangers for Israel... to itself. The political system in Israel has proven that it has difficulty drawing correct lessons from failures, and has an almost compulsive tendency to repeat errors. The Israeli "Irangate" heroes may find in developments in Iran (which are positive, objectively speaking) proof of their correct action in that affair. After all, in theory they were proven correct. It indeed became clear that post-Khomeyni Iran wants to sober up, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian partner to that affair, is today apparently the strong man behind the scenes. The conclusion that may arise from this is that Israel should take advantage of the changing moods and winds in post-Khomeyni Iran so as to renew the old alliance, even covertly. What will follow is that, after a waiting period, the arms dealers will reawaken because such a policy may grant them economic advantages, together with restoring their status as political mediators between the Israeli Government (and the Israeli weapons industry), and the new regime in Iran and the Iranian Army. All of this is a web in which one should take care not to get entangled. There is no doubt that both the United States and the Soviet Union will encourage the process of moderation emerging in Iran, and Israel should take a positive view of this too, but different considerations should guide Israel's policy.

The Iranian connection for Israel is primarily anti-Arab. Even during the darkest days of Khomeyni, Israel continued to form covert ties with the ayatollahs, not for love of Khomeyni, but out of hatred for Saddam Husayn. The renewal of ties with Iran, now of all times, would be interpreted by the Arabs to mean that Israel has not abandoned its enmity for them, and that no credibility can be attached to its peace initiatives. While Shamir and Rabin are trying to enlist Egypt's and Jordan's support for their election plan, they would be demonstrating hostility toward the latters' major ally, Iraq, with all the attendant strategic significance this bears for Israel's place in the Middle East power system. An Israeli move toward Iran now means the continuation of hostility and a basic state of war with the Arabs. An opposite move, a move toward Iraq, would reverse the Israeli signal and mean progress toward peace and reconciliation with the Arab world. Israel need not fear developments in Iran. If the post-Khomeyni regime lives up to expectations and shows moderation, Israel need not lift a finger. The improvement in relations between Iran and Israel would be a derivative of renewed rapprochement between Iran and the United States. In the meantime, Israel would act toward a historic conciliation with Iraq.

While the anticipated processes vis-a-vis Iran are only hypothetical for the time being, Iraq is going through a clear process which contains the real chance for Israel to achieve peace with the Arab world.

The obsessive preoccupation with the intifadah [uprising] conceals from our eyes the emergence and consolidation, under our very nose, of a very important economic axis which contains the true chance for Israel. This is the so-called "Arab Cooperation Council," which, despite its modest name, is the basis for economic confederation between Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt, with the Yemen Arab Republic joining them as well. If Israel has a true interest in the Middle East it would be rapid incorporation in this confederative nucleus, before its place is taken by Syria. Israel could contribute to this group its crucial opportunity for success, and in return receive not only peace, but also the chance, perhaps Israel's only chance, to solve its chronic economic problems. Israel could grant Jordan and Iraq ports on the Mediterranean, and could turn into a clear transit [last word in English] country by providing a territorial continuity for this economic cooperation. This matter, of course, entails recognition of a Palestinian state in the

territories which will naturally join this regional confederation from the very day of its inception. A transition of the Middle East, including Israel and the Palestinians, into borders of regional cooperation, rather than electronic fences, is the answer to the danger of "katyushas fired from Qalqilyah." This is not a dream or a mirage. It exists already. One need only lift his head for a moment from the "task of liquidating the intifadah" to see what is happening across the border.

One should also be very careful not to allow the mortar dealers and merchants to sabotage Israel's economic and security future for generations to come. Just as we lost our membership in the EEC in the fifties, so too we are liable to lose this chance.

Commentary Views U.S. Mideast Policy

TA1906165689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 89 p 9

[Commentary by Avraham Schweitzer: "Which Road To Take?"]

[Text] The quasi-serious definition of a fair compromise is well known: It is one with which none of the sides is pleased. At the moment, this definition applies to what is known of the U.S. Middle East policy which nobody, perhaps with the exception of Yitzhaq Rabin, is applauding. And one need not go too far to find the reason why.

Let us begin with the Israeli dove and its two sub-species. The first, which may already be extinct, is angry with Washington because it did not pressure Israel to agree to an international conference last year. Moreover, the conference as a practical tool for the advancement of the diplomatic process has since then been deleted from the American vocabulary, except in the context of "maybe, when the time comes," meaning never. To the second sub-species, the aggressive dove which wants to take a short-cut by conducting direct contacts with the PLO, America as a mediator—its current role—is anathema by definition.

The indigenous Israeli hawk is also no longer pleased. The preying hawk is displeased because in his mind's eye he sees where the road down which the foxy seducer Yitzhaq Rabin, with the backing of his American godfather, is guiding the naive Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir is leading. On the other hand, the moderate hawk is not pleased because he was led to believe, in various ways including pressure, that the IOU signed by the prime minister during his visit in Washington in March would come up for redemption within a short period of time.

The circle of disappointment with the U.S. policy comes to a close with the PLO, which may be the loyal representative of the entire Palestinian public on this issue. We do not know what Ambassador Pelletreau whispers to his interlocutors in Tunis, but Dennis Ross has since then made very unequivocal remarks to the Palestinians and their supporters in the Arab countries. In a broadcast news conference with Arab correspondents last week, Ross asserted that the United States is opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He did not stop there, but elaborated: The opposition stems from the dispensability of an independent state which would be a source of trouble to its neighbors, Israel and Jordan.

The sophisticated reader may ask: If this is the firm position of the United States, what does Ambassador Pelletreau discuss with his interlocutors, the envoys of the PLO? After all, the latter have only one goal, the establishment of an independent Palestine. Indeed, if the statements made by Ross are merely part of the U.S. game of deception in which Israel is the designated victim, one conclusion from his remarks is obvious: For the moment—and everybody agrees that this moment may last for years—the independent Palestinian state is not a topical issue for discussion.

Indeed, despite the uneasiness of all those directly involved, not one of them has dared break the vicious circle they were drawn into by the dominant superpower in this part of the world. And, if somebody were to ask whether the Americans know what they are doing, the ensuing answer would be two-fold. In the long run, perhaps very long indeed, they are guided by the formula "territory for peace," momentarily leaving in the dark the question of which territory and who would be the happy owners. On the other hand, in the short term, the United States wants to move forward the process which will engender the problems in the long-run, as well as to formulate an answer to the procedural question. It seems that the U.S. Government has erected a mental barrier between the two phases of the agreement. Not only it is not focusing exclusively on the promotion of the first phase, but it wants to enforce this point of view on those directly involved, both Israelis and Arabs.

According to the current fashion of thought in Washington—whose designer is Richard Haas, the man in charge of Middle East affairs in the National Security Council—one should wait for processes to ripen before the time comes for massive U.S. intervention. In order for the vicious circle in which Israelis and Palestinians are held captive to last, and for the time to be ripe for the realization of the first practical phase of the process, two conditions must be met: First, the intifadah [uprising] must continue until a practical rapprochement between Israel and the Palestinians, including the PLO, becomes inevitable (this is probably one of the reasons why the United States has abstained from denouncing the uprising in the territories). Second, at the same time the Palestinians must be told time and again, until there is no doubt in their mind about it, that some elements of the final solution, including the establishment of an independent Palestine, are no longer on the agenda.

If Prime Minister Shamir does not allow the thugs in his party, Sharon and Moda'i, to deter him from fulfilling the commitment he undertook upon presenting his initiative in Washington, there are grounds to believe that

the United States will consider the time ripe for active involvement in the process according to the Shamir-Rabin formula even as early as in 1989.

People in Washington probably believe that the PLO will soften enough during the year, with the help of Egypt among others, to come to terms with the Israeli-made master plan, and will see to terminating the intifadah. The combination of these operational elements may give momentum to the other stages of the process and, at the same time, provide the U.S. diplomats with an impressive achievement.

Shamir Calls For 'Nonbelligerency' Accord

TA1906105589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today called the murder of Steven Rosenberg of Ari'el another link in the bloody chain of violent acts perpetrated by vicious terrorists. Shamir said Samaria will be ours. The prime minister was addressing the annual convention of the Manufacturers Association in Tel Aviv. Le'a Zinder reports:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] The prime minister said that Israel is at a turning point in several important respects. For the first time since the establishment of the state, he said, Israel has proposed a comprehensive diplomatic initiative that aims to solve the Arab-Israeli dispute in all its aspects. He called for contacts with Arab countries in an attempt to reach peace, or at least a state of nonbelligerency, including an end to the Arab boycott.

Shamir said an immediate end must be put to the inhuman condition of Palestinian refugees who, he said, are being cynically, inhumanly exploited by the Arab countries. To the Palestinians in the territories, he issued a warning: Violence will not hasten the political process, but will impede it.

Shamir denied there is a deterioration in the moral caliber of the Israel Defense Forces serving in the territories.

Shamir said we are on the brink of a historic new wave of immigration from the Soviet Union and other countries. In the Soviet Union, he said, the Jews are awakening. He said Israel must redouble its efforts to strengthen the bonds of Russian Jews to their own culture so that they will choose to come to Israel. At the same time, he said, we must prepare the means for their successful absorption in Israel. [passage omitted] [end recording]

3 Buruqin Residents Confess to Ari'el Murder

TA2006104589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Three residents of the village of Buruqin near Ari'el have confessed to the murder of Friedrich Stephen Rosenfeld of Ari'el. The three were arrested overnight by the General Security Services. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 20 June adds: "Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the security forces have destroyed the houses of the three men suspected of murdering Friedrich Stephen Rosenfeld."]

A general strike in the territories has been called today by the leadership of the uprising. Disturbances were reported this morning in several areas. In the Nur al-Shams refugee camp, residents set up roadblocks and burned tires. The al-Burayj refugee camp in Rafah has been placed under curfew following disturbances there yesterday. Authorities have lifted the curfew on the al-Mughazi refugee camp.

Students at a school in Bayt Safafa in south Jerusalem attempted to set up a roadblock, burned a tire, and flew a PLO flag. Police arrived at the scene; arrests are expected.

The body of 27-year-old Fahd Fawzi Mahdi was found this morning in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. He had been stabbed and axed to death. Local residents say he was suspected of having collaborated with Israel. Security sources say the murder was committed for criminal reasons, and police are investigating the incident.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 20 June reports that "a 21-year-old security detainee from Gaza, held in custody until the completion of legal proceedings against him, was murdered last night at the Qezi'ot lockup in the Negev. Roni Sofer, our correspondent in the south, reports that the Negev District police detained a 21-year-old suspect from the Jabalyah refugee camp who confessed to the murder and reconstructed it. The police said the suspect claimed that he had murdered the man because he cooperated with the Israeli authorities. The police are investigating whether there were also other motives."]

Rabin on 'Difficult Times' for Armament Exports

TA2006104089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jun 89 p 8

[Report by business correspondent Judy Maltz]

[Text] Tel Aviv—Israel's military industry is finally back on its feet, but difficult times lie ahead for armament exporters, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday.

Addressing the annual convention of the Manufacturers' Association, Rabin said the future of the defence industry therefore depended on its being able to rely on the Defence Ministry for 30-40 percent of its annual orders in order to maintain sales. The Defence Ministry last week demanded a NIS [new Israeli shekel] 419 million budget increase, partly to fund new purchases. Exporting weapons was becoming increasingly difficult, Rabin

noted, because of cutbacks in defence budgets around the world, growing competition from new arms manufacturers in the Third World, and increased protectionism abroad.

"The situation in the world market is becoming more and more difficult," Rabin said. "The market is crowded, volatile and very competitive."

Despite the sharp cutbacks in the industry in recent years, Rabin said that sales per worker were unsatisfactory and far below the norm in other countries. Structural changes, he said, were also necessary in order to promote further efficiency. These included turning Israel Military Industries and eventually RAFAEL [Armament Development Authority] into full-fledged companies, rather than branches of the Defence Ministry. In addition, he said, Israeli defence enterprises had to concentrate on producing "smart" weapons, which do not involve heavy development costs, rather than "standard" defence equipment.

The number of employees in the defence industry had been reduced by one-fourth from its peak of 40,000 several years ago, Rabin said, but the total amount of sales was higher today than it had ever been. Israel Aircraft Industries and Israel Military Industries both had backlogs of orders good for two years.

In 1984, the value U.S. defence contracts awarded to Israeli companies was $80 million, while in 1988, this figure had jumped to $480 million, the defence minister said. Most of the large defence companies, he added, were now exporting more than half their total production.

Shamir, Sharon Decide on 5 Jul Likud Meeting

TA2006063689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] The Likud Central Committee will convene on 5 July at 1600. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that this was decided between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Ne'eman Calls For Relocating Refugee Camps

TA2006044589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Professor Yuval Ne'eman of the Tehiya Party says Israel is facing a war similar to the war of attrition. He told reporter David Ze'ev that new methods must be taken to put an end to the uprising, including the relocation of Palestinian refugee camps outside of Israel's borders.

[Begin Ne'eman recording] Had these methods that we have been (?proposing) been used, the intifadah [uprising] would have been over after the first 2 weeks. It is still possible now to change things. Here we have a series of refugee camps in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza which represent centers of anti-Israeli activity. That's where the stones were thrown before the intifadah. Had I been the minister of defense I would have simply taken the al-Duhayshah camp and removed it to some other place. For instance, it could be rebuilt next to Sidon, outside of Israeli jurisdiction. There is no reason why refugee camps should be here. They might as well be in Vietnam or in another Arab country. I think that by the time we would start with the second camp, there would be no memory of the intifadah left. [end recording]

IDF Denies Bombing Kindergarten in Lebanon Raid

TA1906112389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 89 p 2

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman yesterday denied an AFP report, based on eyewitness accounts, according to which a building housing a kindergarten was bombed during the Israeli Air Force attack on the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp on the outskirts of Tyre on 16 June. The report claimed that two children were injured.

The IDF asserted that all the structures bombed were terrorist targets and that the attack had been coordinated on the basis of an operational blueprint. All the buildings that were strafed were outside the refugee camp, and no structures that had not been designated as targets in the plan were hit in the actual attack. [passage omitted]

Incidents in Territories 19 Jun Updated

TA2006102389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jun 89 p 12

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] The Gaza military authorities dismissed the director of the al-Shifa' Government Hospital yesterday, asserting that he belonged to the PLO. In Nabulus, physicians protested against the wounding of an ambulance driver. [passage omitted]

In yesterday's clashes in the territories, 13 Palestinians were wounded, according to Palestinian sources. An Israeli woman was slightly wounded in Bethlehem by a stone.

Al-Shifa' director Dr. Ahmad al-Yazchi was accused of being a Fatah leader in the Strip and of contacting Fatah activists in Amman. But he told THE JERUSALEM POST that since 1981 he had left Gaza only once, in 1984, to escort his nephew to an operation in Cairo. He has, however, been involved with "Peace Now" activists. Last Saturday he hosted Dr. Ruhama Merton at al-Shifa'. A week ago he lectured peace activists in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Palestinians yesterday set fire to the car of an Israeli contractor in the courtyard of al-Shifa' Hospital.

Meanwhile, in Nabulus, doctors and ambulance drivers demonstrated near the Red Cross office to protest Sunday night's shooting at an ambulance on its way to collect a wounded Palestinian. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip troops shot and wounded 10 Palestinians in clashes during which Palestinians threw stones at the soldiers, according to Palestinian sources. [passage omitted]

Palestinians near Irtah, south of Bethlehem, threw bricks at an Israeli car and a woman was slightly wounded by glass splinters, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported.

4 Houses Demolished; Settlers Riot in W. Bank

TA2006050489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] The security forces destroyed and sealed four houses in Qalqilyah, al-Birah, and the al-Jalazun refugee camp last night. The houses belonged to Arabs suspected of damaging Israeli vehicles.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the houses of two residents who had admitted attacking Israeli cars were destroyed and sealed in Qalqilyah. In al-Birah, the house of a resident who confessed to throwing a firebomb at an Israeli car was sealed.

The security forces demolished a house in al-Jalazun owned by a man who admitted participating in the murder of a camp resident suspected of collaboration with Israel.

Settlers in Samaria demonstrated at the (Qesem) intersection. They arrived in 50 cars, threw stones at Arab cars, and smashed some windshields.

Two Arabs from Samaria were beaten yesterday evening near the Megiddo intersection by two young men who identified themselves as security personnel. The attackers stole 2,000 shekels and tied up one of the Arabs, then threw him into a ditch.

Islamic Resistance Movement Statement on Israel

LD1906110489 Kuwait KUNA in English 0924 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, June 19 (KUNA)—A powerful anti-Israeli Islamic resistance group Monday urged its supporters and the Islamic nation to condemn any Arab proximity with Israel and vowed revenge against the Israeli occupiers for oppression and desecration of Islam.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) whose presence is mostly felt in the occupied Gaza Strip, defied the occupation forces, and said it was planning general strikes in the coming weeks.

"We will never surrender...let the resistance to the occupier continue until Allah grants victory," Hamas said in a statement released Monday and received by KUNA here.

Hamas, which is opposed to the PLO's peace overtures but without distinct dispute with the organization, called on the Islamic nation and the Palestinian people to "condemn any form of capitulation and any visits to the enemy which is occupying our holy places."

The Islamic Resistance Movement strongly condemned the desecration of the Muslims's holy book of [the] Koran, in reference to the incident two weeks ago when an Israeli soldier used pages of the Koran as toilet paper in a West Bank school.

Hamas also called for strong condemnation of the Israeli occupation for repeatedly forcing the closure of the educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

The group called for general strikes on Saturday to protest the descration of [the] Koran and on July 9 to mark the intifadah [uprising] entering its 20th month, according to [the] Hamas statement.

King Visits, Praises Public Security Department

JN1906162089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] His majesty the king, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has expressed satisfaction at the high level of the public security in Jordan. In remarks during a visit to the Public Security Department, the PSD, today, his majesty called on officials to do their best to serve the citizens. His majesty the king stressed the social and human goal of the policeman so as to make the citizen trust and cooperate with him. At the visit, his majesty discussed with PSD officials their department's plans and programs. His majesty was accompanied on the visit by the Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir.

Column Urges Maintaining Army Size, Budget

JN1806092289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jun 89 p 20

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "The Military Budget and the Policy of Expenditure Reduction"]

[Text] Many people, including officials, discuss frankly or refer implicitly (sometimes with good intentions) to Jordan's huge military budget and the need to reduce it or the size the Jordanian Army with the excuse that we should respond to the current difficult financial circumstances.

Superficially, this talk sounds logical. However, it does not hold water before the solid facts, the true national will, and the constants which should not be dealt with lightly. The Jordanian Army is the backbone of the Jordanian Government and entity. Attacking it in any way has meanings and dimensions that should not be concealed from anyone no matter how good the intentions are.

Actually, it has been declared that military expenditure has been cut by 25 percent through canceling the purchase of equipment and weapons that we can do without. This is a large and important percentage and is more than the reductions taking place in any other field of general expenditure; that is, if there are any real reductions at all.

The Jordanian Army is one of the most competent armies in the world in relation to its material costs. The Jordanian military budget has never exceeded 250 million dinars of the current expenditures. This includes the internal general security, civil defense, and general intelligence. If we take into consideration the number of those in the Army, it would show us that the cost of the Jordanian soldier with all his current requirements is less than one-fourth the cost of one Arab or international soldier, according to recognized averages.

It is beneficial in this field to recall once again that Jordan's military budget amounts to only two percent of the military budget of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. This indicates that the expected Arab aid will not burden fraternal Arab countries in whose interest it is to have a strong, well-equipped Jordanian Army ready to stand between them and the Israeli aggression machine.

We should not forget that Jordan is suffering from high unemployment approaching 20 percent of its work force. The Army absorbs about one-fourth of the Jordanian work force. Therefore, reducing the size of the Army will result in modest financial savings. In return, however, the problem of unemployment, with all its social and economic dimensions, will increase.

It remains to be said that the Jordanian Army, which is considered the second largest army in the world in relation to population, after the Iraqi army, is not purely a military army. It is an important production force. Tens of thousands of technicians, administrators, and those working abroad have graduated from it. It also produces medical, educational, engineering, construction, agricultural, and tourist services. It is possible—nay, it is in fact a must—to increase its economic production role. Naturally that should not be at the expense of its size and preparedness.

Columnist Decries U.S. Mideast Policy 'Plot'

JN1806113889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jun 89 p 20

[Ibrahim Abu-Nab's "From the Present" column: "No to the United States and Israel!"]

[Text] Greetings to Damascus, which is hosting the Arab Lawyers General Federation's conference tomorrow at a time of great need. The Arab nation is in dire need now of airing the voice of justice and reality, which the various media have been trying to obscure in order to peddle the historical plot which everyone has been talking about for a long time and which must now be explained.

The plot, as explained by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Denis Ross, chief of the Policy Planning Staff in the State Department, can be summed up in the liquidation of the Palestine question and the suppression of the brave intifadah [uprising] by means of holding Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. These elections would not lead to the recognition of the right of self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state, but to entrenching the occupation and getting the Palestinians accustomed to its aims and purposes.

James Baker unscrupulously revealed the U.S. plan before a recent meeting of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee. Dennis Ross also explained and commented on it openly. He said the plan seeks through these elections in the occupied territories to arrange direct negotiations between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian inhabitants of these territories rather than the PLO, so Palestinians would turn away from the

intifadah and resort to political struggle, which would not lead to a Palestinian state. Because in U.S. opinion, such a state would not be viable.

As for the U.S. Administration's dialogue with the PLO in Tunisia, it is no more than an attempt to use the organization as another instrument within the Arab group to influence the intifadah in order to make it follow the course dictated by the United States and Israel.

The United States is asking the PLO to operate on three fronts—the Arab states, the big powers, and the Palestinian people—in order to achieve the desired objectives, now that it has made concessions to the United States and the Western states. The U.S. Administration is also asking the Arab states to act as a supportive mediator in order to achieve these objectives. As for the projected international conference to settle the Palestinian problem, the Americans say that there is no room for it unless it serves direct negotiations and the other objectives.

Dennis Ross did not deny that, by its biased action, the U.S. Administration is implementing and serving Israeli policies. He said the United States has always been Israel's loyal ally and that the two countries are bound by a treaty of strategic understanding, which makes U.S. policy very close to Israeli policy. So let those who think ponder these points.

True, James Baker said that Israel should stop the policy aimed at creating Greater Israel. This made some people pick out only this sentence from what Baker said and bring the news to the ears of Arab states.

But, he only said this to warn the Arabs that Israel can continue the expansionist policy if the Arabs do not surrender to it. The U.S. policy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is in harmony with the Israeli expansionist policy and does not restrict it. His saying to the Arab states that they should drop the economic boycott imposed against Israel and stop considering Zionism a form of racism is only opening the door wide open for Israeli hegemony over the Middle East.

It is necessary for the Arab lawyers to understand these facts and their meanings and not to base any response to them on any fear except the fear of God. It is also necessary for them not to allow regional differences to obscure vision or stop them from saying the truth. Those differences were responsible for the deterioration of the Arab situation and encouraged the colonialists to go too far.

The Arab lawyers must say their word, and not only to glorify the Palestinian intifadah because it brought the Arabs glory which they should have brought themselves. But they should say their word through an Arab intifadah, which will put an end to any dialogue with the United States that does not benefit a useful goal and which will place the Arab governments before their responsibilities.

Arab lawyers must remember that the step-by-step policy formulated by Kissinger and implemented in its final stages now by Baker and Ross is only an attempt to forge the course of history and change its possibilities. However, they plot, and fate ridicules them. Let us all remember what God said in those verses: "And the unbelievers plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God." "They before them did also plot against God's way: But God took their structures from their foundations." "Do then those who devise evil plots feel secure that God will not cause the earth to swallow them up, or that the wrath will not seize them from directions they little perceive?" [Koranic verses]

We hope that Arab lawyers will say from Damascus a word of truth that will demand, first of all, freedom to be granted in every Arab country so that this Arab people can confront what the colonialists try to impose on that people while they are handcuffed. We call on them to declare this nation's rejection of the U.S. presence on its territory so long as that presence corresponds to Israel's presence.

Editorial Notes 'International Pressures'

JN1906100289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jun 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Firm, Principled, and Constant Positions"]

[Text] In his meeting with a General Federation of Trade Unions delegation and representatives of Jordanian workers, his majesty the king reasserted Jordan's principled, constant stands, headed by refusing any compromise on Arab rights, especially the Palestine question. He also reasserted Jordan's constant stand on backing and supporting fraternal Iraq as well as working to consolidate Arab accord, reconciliation, cooperation, and solidarity.

His majesty the king's rejection of any compromise on the Palestine question and reassertion that this is one of Jordan's principled, constant stands clearly reveals the amount of enormous pressure being applied to Jordan and its brave leadership. This leadership has so far succeeded in holding fast and working to save the Palestine question from the claws of the international-Zionist conspiracy, which aims to impose de facto solutions on the Arab nation.

When King Husayn reiterates the stand on the Palestine question and not relinquishing it or accepting compromises on it—after the trust has been handed to the PLO through the disengagement of legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank—this reiteration by the Jordanian leadership means one thing: namely, the presence of international pressures that try to divert efforts to convene an international conference into dangerous paths aimed at resolving the Palestine question outside the Palestinian territory, which is entirely under the Zionist occupation.

Hence, we are not surprised by the international procrastination toward the convocation of an international conference that must be attended by all concerned parties—headed by the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We are also not surprised at Israel's gradual transformation into a state that is professional in the acts of killing, burning, destruction, expulsion, detention, and dislocation of the Palestinian Arab people as clear evidence of Israel's rejection of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights over their Palestinian soil.

We realize the dimensions of the Zionist plot aimed at solving the Palestine question outside its Palestinian framework, in terms of both people and homeland. We also realize the amount of international pressure being put on Jordan. The visible traces of human and economic pressures on Jordan are aimed at forcing Jordan to accept a role in liquidating the Palestine question. However, the day will not come when Jordan can accept such a disgraceful role.

All paths are open to the convocation of an international conference if the international quarters and Israel want a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the region. If they are looking for "something else," we do not believe its destiny will be better than that of the previous similar plots in the region.

We hope nobody will misunderstand the constant, principled Jordanian stand on the Palestine question and that nobody will deal incorrectly with Jordan in particular.

Fadlallah Calls For U.S.-Syrian Dialogue
NC1906183789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has cast doubt on the Arab tripartite committee's ability to succeed in its task in view of the regional and international complications governing the Lebanese arena. Scholar Fadlallah said all that the committee can achieve is the consolidation of the cease-fire, the lifting of the blockades, the opening of the crossing points, and, perhaps, the settlement of the elections issue.

Scholar Fadlallah revealed that political inaction will continue in the Lebanese arena until the American-Syrian dialogue on the Lebanese crisis and the situation in region is resumed.

He said that the available information indicates that this dialogue could be resumed in October. He noted that Washington has begun to prepare a file for the resumption of the dialogue with Damascus.

'Sources' Explain Warning to E. Beirut Deputies
NC1906185389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Informed sources have responded to statements about some deputies' being prevented from going to West Beirut from East Beirut. The sources expressed surprise at the context in which this issue has been put, especially under the present crucial and fateful circumstances the country is experiencing in light of the Syrian blockade that has been imposed on the eastern area, as well as the daily Syrian attacks, which show a disregard for all Arab resolutions and efforts being exerted on more than one level to achieve a political solution for Lebanon.

These sources indicated that all that happened was that the deputies were cautioned about the dangers of going to West Beirut in light of the prevailing security and political circumstances which necessitate taking precautions when crossing from one sector of Beirut to the other.

The sources raised a number of questions, the most important of which are: Why are the deputies who are residing in West Beirut not allowed to go to the eastern area and to move freely in any direction? Why are the crossing points closed to all? Who can guarantee the safety of deputies who go to West Beirut, especially as the various attacks against some deputies are still vividly remembered, including, for example, the restriction of Deputy Farid Sarhal's freedom?

The sources also indicated that the security situation in West Beirut, in view of the state of anarchy and lack of security, dictates that more than one measure is necessary to ensure the safety of the deputies and diplomats. The sources drew attention to the fact that some diplomats have voluntarily refused to go to West Beirut and that some states have advised their officials against crossing to West Beirut, advice similar to that given to New York Archbishop John O'Connor.

Released Belgian Hostage Interviewed
PM2006085289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jun 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Belgian Former Hostage Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Brussels Paid No Money to Kidnappers; Arab Sides Helped in Release"]

[Excerpts] Athens, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jan Cools, the Belgian doctor released in Lebanon last week, has denied that his government paid his kidnappers a large sum of money for his release. A statement issued by the Belgian ruling party had claimed that the Belgian trade minister handed the sum to Cools' kidnappers in return for his release and safe exit from Lebanon.

Cools told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that certain Arab circles, including Libyan Chairman Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and some Palestinian leaders, contributed significantly to his release through the efforts they made with the people who held him hostage.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Cools also said that his government was well aware of his condition throughout the 13 months he spent in captivity in different places. He said that his government knew through its contacts with Arab and Palestinian circles that he posed no threat of any kind to the warring forces in Lebanon and that he was performing a humanitarian duty in the course of his work with the Norwegian Aid Committee operating there.

The Belgian doctor arrived in the Greek capital the day before yesterday aboard a Cyprus Airways plane accompanied by Belgian Trade Minister Roger Urbain and a number of Belgian diplomats. [passage omitted]

Asked if his apparent state of exhaustion was the result of ill treatment by his kidnappers, Cools replied: "I was not tortured or beaten up by the group which kidnapped me but 13 months [in captivity] was bound to make me look this way. I was completely isolated from the outside world, especially in the last 8 months when I was not even allowed to listen to the radio."

Jan Cools adamantly refused to reveal the name of the party or organization which kidnapped him. He said: "It is not yet time to talk about that."

It should be recalled that an armed organization calling itself the "Soldiers of Right" announced last Wednesday, just hours before his release, that it would release him in response to a request by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the mediation of Fatah, the Revolutionary Council led by Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal), but neither the Libyan nor the Palestinian side has confirmed or denied it. [passage omitted]

Birri on 'Awn's Actions; Praises Cools' Release

NC1906172689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri maintains that there is a common interest between Israel and military Maronism at this stage manifested by, first, opposition to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and, second, opposition o the achievement of reforms prior to presidential elections.

Minister Birri asked: Why does not General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, accept a security committee to search ships when he accuses us of smuggling narcotics while he smuggles weapons to kill Lebanese?

Speaking at a news conference he held this afternoon, Minister Birri said: We reject 'Awn's security as a basic part of our rejection of the hegemony of military maronism. What is required is an accord based on a new system for Lebanon and not one based on 'Awn's rifles. He accused 'Awn of imposing a blockade on East Beirut leaders to prevent them from reaching an understanding with leaders in other areas.

Minister Birri described the Damascus meetings among the nationalist forces as serious. He said: We reached agreement on common ideas. However, he refused to go into detail.

Minister Birri praised the decision to release Belgian Dr Jan Cools, expressing the hope that such incidents will not be repeated, because they defame any cause in the south or any other Lebanese area. The only one who benefits from such incidents is Israel, which was unhappy about the release of the Belgian doctor and attacked our kinsmen in the al-Rashidiyah camp, as if to take revenge for his release.

Cited on Israeli 'Annexation'

NC1906161289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has expressed the view that the battle in Lebanon will be a long one. He noted that it is unacceptable that the national action remains confined solely to the realm of sincerity and spontaneity.

Referring to the meetings held in Damascus, he said we reached common views during these national meetings, which were marked by seriousness.

Speaking at a news conference today, Minister Birri said the current Israeli onslaught gives more than a green light to the military Maronism to continue stalling the Arab decisions with a view to torpedoing them. He said there is a link between Israel and 'Awn in that they both reject the implementation of the Arab decisions. This link is manifest in, first, rejecting the implementation of Resolution 425 and, second, opposing the reforms before the elections.

Minister Birri spoke of Israeli annexation of Lebanese territory in the region extending from the slopes of Mount Hermon in the direction of the Lebanese territory, in areas parallel to Dayr Mimas along the occupied border zone, in areas between Kafr Killa to Markaba, in the environs of Mays al-Jabal village, in other areas between the villages of Blida and 'Aytarun, in Hursh Marun al-Ra's, and in the villages of Rumaysh, 'Ayta al-Sha'b, and 'Alma al-Sha'b. He also said that lands in Marj 'Uyun and 20 sq kms between Hula and (?al-Mayl) have been annexed. A new radar station has been established in al-Bayyadah, he added.

Minister Birri denied there are critical shortages of gas and flour, noting that a ship loaded with fuel has started unloading in al-Zahrani port. He revealed that there is a plan to borrow or purchase electricity from Syria via the 'Anjar power plant to feed areas in al-Biqa' and in the north. He said the idea has been approved in principle but the capacity of electricity involved is under negotiation.

Disputes Between Syrian, SSNP Forces Noted

NC1906191689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM has cited security sources in al-Biqa' as reporting that Syrian forces in the area destroyed the house of Marwan Faris, an official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP], as well as the houses of some people close to him.

Serious dispute recently erupted between the SSNP and the Syrian forces manning the Shrin-'Ayn al-Tuffahah crossing point because the Syrian forces refused to allow some cars, which had obtained a special permit from the SSNP, to cross to the eastern area.

The sources said that the Syrian forces clashed with SSNP gunmen in the area some time ago, which resulted in the death of a Syrian major. This prompted the Syrian forces to reduce the number of cars that pass through the Shrin-'Ayn al-Tuffahah crossing point from more than 10 to only 5 cars daily.

Within this context, the Syrian forces have addressed a strongly worded warning to the SSNP and called on it to exercise self-restraint under the pretext that time does not allow for internal disputes.

Iranian Battalion Reportedly Arrives in Al-Biqa'

NC2006054789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] According to information received from al-Biqa', an Iranian battalion arrived in the area recently and deployed in the plain.

Two other battalions arrived in Lebanon some time ago, as was disclosed at the time by Jordanian Prime Minister Marwan al-Qasim [title as heard].

UNIFIL Prevents Israelis From Entering Village

NC1906174189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] The Irish contingent of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] in the south prevented a group of Israelis from entering the village of Haddathah this morning. Tension reigned in the area between the two sides as a result. According to security sources, the occupation forces brought extra troops to the South Lebanese Army positions overlooking Haddathah after the incident. UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel confirmed this but gave no further details.

In another development, and in accordance with a request by the UNIFIL command in the south, a Lebanese ship carrying 2,000 tons of flour has been released. The Israeli occupation navy seized the ship yesterday when it was heading for Tyre to unload its cargo.

Israeli Helicopters Fire at Al-Biqa' Area

NC1906193389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Two Israeli helicopters raked the area of Jabal al-Dahr in western al-Biqa' with heavy-caliber machine guns this evening.

Syrian Positions Shell Eastern Areas, Coasts

NC1906165189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] In the absence of important political moves locally and pending the crystallization of the results of Arab and international efforts regarding Lebanon, the security situation came to the fore once again today. The cease-fire was violated shortly after 1800 today. The residential areas in B'abda, Bitshay, (Bmakkin), Bdadun, and Kafr Shima came under shelling from the Syrian positions. The Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb are also coming under similar shelling from Syrian and Junblatt's positions. These lines had earlier this afternoon been subjected to intensive sniper fire.

We have been informed that several fires have broken out in the forests.

Meanwhile, the Jubayl and Kasrawan coasts have been coming under concentrated shelling from the Syrian emplacements in West Beirut and the north since 1800 today. The same areas were earlier shelled between 1400 and 1430 today.

Army Units Return Fire

NC1906173289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] The security situation suffered a setback this evening as clashes raged on the combat lines in Suq al-Gharb. These clashes were accompanied by intermittent indiscriminate shelling of B'abda at 1805.

Our correspondent has reported that the Syrians began by opening tank fire at the Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, Bdadun, and Bsaba from their positions in al-Shuwayfat, Bshamun, al-Ma'rufiyah, and 'Ayn 'Nub. At 1830, tension mounted on the combat lines of Kayfun, Qal'at al-Hisn, 'Aytat, Baysur, and Suq al-Gharb. The Syrian forces also opened artillery fire against the Kasrawan and Jubayl Coasts.

At 1840, B'abda again came under tank and 122-mm and 130-mm mortar fire. As the Syrian artillery has been persisting in its attacks, especially on Suq al-Gharb, Lebanese Army units were compelled to return the fire.

Fighting on Mountain Abates

NC1906190989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The intensity of the clashes on the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat, Kafr Shima-al-Shuwayfat, and Bsaba-al-Ma'rufiyah combat lines has eased somewhat. Violent clashes involving the use of all types of weapons had resumed shortly after 2000 today. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' on Lebanon Committee, PLO Relations

LD2006092389 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, June 20 (KUNA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' Tuesday said that the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon is concentrating now on implementing the security part of its plan to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Quoted by Kuwaiti dailies AL-SIYASAH and AL-WATAN after the conclusion of the opening session of the standing Afro-Arab cooperation committee, Al-Shar' said the security part of the committee's plan includes a ceasefire, lifting of sieges, opening crossings and inspecting ships to ban entry of arms to Lebanese conflicting parties.

He went on saying that after completing the security part the committee will start with political measures which include political reforms, reorganizing constitutional establishments and electing the state's president.

That measure comes in implementation of the Casablanca emergency Arab summit resolution on Lebanon, the Syrian official added.

He noted that Syria affirmed to the tripartite committee its commitment to this resolution, indicating that his country's decision to stop supplying arms to militias in West Beirut comes within its adherence to the security part of the committee's plan.

Asked if the three-man committee will hold a meeting in Syria shortly, Al-Shar' said this is very possible "and we will give it all support to bring closer point of views between the Lebanese conflicting parties."

Regarding the normalization of relations between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization and if a date has been fixed for the visit of a Palestinian delegation to Damascus, the Syrian top diplomat explained that during the meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Casablanca they agreed to continue dialogue, but until now no date has been set up for the visit of a Palestinian team to the Syrian capital.

Planning Minister on Economy, Development

PM2006091289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 89 p 10

[Report on interview with Minister of State for Planning Affairs Dr Sabah Baqjaji by Walid Najm in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Dr Sabah Baqjaji, Syrian minister of state for planning affairs, said that current statistics and economic indicators prove that the beginning of the nineties will mark the start of a more relaxed economic situation for Syria. He explained this by saying: The economic policy characterized by rationalization and by the opening of new horizons for Syrian production primarily through self-reliance has begun to bear fruit.

Asked what basis Syrian officials have for saying that the Syrian economy is strong and solid, he replied: Once again we confirm that our economy is strong and solid, and such strength and solidity are based on a number of important factors: Syrian citizens' determination to surmount difficulties by relying on their own capabilities, Syria's various material and natural resources, and the cohesion between the public and joint sectors with a view to boosting the economy. This is in addition to the new investments in Syria, in the oil field among others. Many investment enterprises are approaching completion as a result of the government's instructions that priority be given to such enterprises. We are well aware that Syria is an agricultural country, which is why the government has focused on agricultural enterprises by securing a base for them. The land reclamation process, most stages of which are approaching completion, will probably bring positive economic results.

This coincides with the process of building surface dams and river dams, many of which have been completed, especially on the Euphrates River. The Al-Khabur Dam will play a role in the Syrian economy, and work on it is proceeding rapidly.

Answering a question about plans, especially the 5-year plans, which are not being implemented in time, he said: Generally, a plan sets future guidelines within which projects are implemented according to a framework scheme linked to a timetable as well as to the provision of raw materials, manpower, studies, and blueprints.

He went on to say: Some of the major projects are financed by foreign aid while some are self-financed, and this is where the questions of foreign currency and its availability arise.

Then he said: We do not deny that there are some currency shortages, but we always overcome them. Our population increases by half a million a year, which prompts us to think about the services the citizens need. Besides, half our people are below the employment age, and this is not the case in other states. Our ability to deal with the increasing population proves the solidity of our economy. The minister pointed out "that the citizens' requirements under current conditions are another positive sign of our economy's solidity, apart from our national commitments and their material burdens."

We and many of the world's states have been affected by the world economic recession reflected in low raw material prices in Third World countries, interest rates, and the high value of the dollar, which have increased these states' debts.

Despite this, we in Syria have launched development and economic efforts to extricate ourselves from the international economic crisis. We have accomplished many strategic projects in our country and managed to increase the GNP in recent years by an average of 11.7 percent a year. Investments have increased by 6.1 percent a year and savings by 14 percent a year—positive economic factors.

Furthermore, the public sector's participation in manufacturing industry production has risen from 80 to 84 percent, for instance.

But despite this, we face some difficulties: Demand exceeds output, and international economic factors play a part in this in our own case and with regard to the developing countries. As for spending, we still sometimes exceed economic limits.

The minister went on: To overcome this problem, we always seek to realize a balance between imports and exports. Future influential economic factors must produce major positive economic achievements. For instance, the investment of the Syrian Oil Company, a national company, has reached nearly 8,648 million Syrian pounds, not including the contracted services working here. The Irrigation Ministry's investments have reached some 8 billion Syrian pounds.

Anyone visiting the eastern region, for instance, will witness the tireless work being done in land reclamation and oil projects.

Our plans are always ambitious. They may face obstacles such as bad weather in the case of agriculture or the nonavailability of spare parts for projects, but we are always optimistic and our new projects reflect such optimism.

The most important objective
plans are to raise citizens' l
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individuals' share of the GN
living standards, increase
opportunities. We are also wo
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needed to increase production
rking to secure everything
of about 7 percent, which is th
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he population increase rate.
Naturally, that ambition and t
must influence the plans. But t
the facts I have mentioned
includes projects separate fr
the new investment, which
every sector, will impart a b
oom the previous plans in
stability and lead to an imp
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parallel to our country's polit
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ical stability.

Paper Cited on 'Awn Staten
JN1806070789 Damascus Do
ments, Israeli Threats
0415 GMT 18 Jun 89
mestic Service in Arabic

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'
'TH affirms that the esca-
lation of the Israeli aggression
alarm sounded to the world,
is the most salient form of
leaders are suffering from psy
particularly as the Zionist
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The paper says: 'Awn's stater
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Lebanon to drag it into an
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and second for the entire
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ecifications of the region's
and make Syria a party to the in
at the efforts to maintain
not be realized. Syria will not
ntra-Lebanese conflict will
defending pan-Arab depth and
overlook its main task of
d the Arab nation.

Afghanistan

Deputy Minister Updates Hijacking Incident

LD1906174189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Yesterday an AN-26 civilian aircraft belonging to Ariana Afghan Airline, which was on a domestic flight from Kabul to Zaranj, capital of Nimruz Province, at 1400 was forced to land at Zabol Airport in Iran by two armed men, whose identities are unknown as yet. The deputy minister of the Civil Aviation Ministry said the following to our reporter:

[Begin deputy minister's recording] An AN-26 passenger aircraft of Ariana Afghan Airline took off at 1059 from Kabul International Airport. After reaching its operational height it continued en route toward Zaranj. The pilot of the aircraft was Captain Mirways. During its flight toward Zaranj, at 1321 the aircraft appeared on the Zaranj radar. Once it appeared on radar at 1321, it was shown flying toward Zaranj Airport. At 1332 the aircraft left the Zaranj zone and the captain of the aircraft told the control tower of Zaranj Airport that two armed men were forcing him to fly the aircraft toward Iran and make a forced landing at Zabol.

As we see from the radar recording, the pilot of the aircraft resisted and tried first to maneuver the plane back to our country. When he carried out this first maneuver at 1340 the aircraft was again on the border. The pilot reentered Afghanistan at 1341. We see again that the pilot was forced to head for Iran at 1341. The aircraft took a course for Iran until 1342. At 1343 the pilot decided to return and carried out a maneuver to reenter our country.

In his maneuver, at 1345, the aircraft was flying low, then disappeared from radar at 1347. The pilot made a forced landing on level ground.

I must mention that of the 34 [number as heard] passengers, 19 were men, 8 were women, and 8 were children. Four children were under 2 years old, and four were 2 to 12 year-olds.

According to the information we received from the Iranian aviation authorities, unfortunately there were deaths and injuries in incident. Taking into account the national and international civil aviation laws, which we observed, we took urgent measures yesterday. We immediately contacted the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan in order that diplomatic channels could be opened. This was done.

We also sent telegrams to the civil aviation authorities of Iran and Pakistan via our own channels. We sent details of the aircraft and the number of passengers and crew. We asked them: If such an aircraft has entered your territory please do not spare any cooperation and keep us informed. We received a telex reply from Pakistan that such an aircraft had not entered the airspace of that country.

However the aviation authorities in Iran provided total cooperation with us since 1400 yesterday. They immediately sent an urgent reply to our telex.

As we know, Prime Minister Musavi of Iran has commissioned his deputy, Mr Mo'ayeri to go the site of the incident and provide total cooperation, which he has done. Also, based on our request, we have asked permission for an aircraft and an aviation delegation to enter Iranian territory in order to provide urgent assistance to the crew and passengers. Fortunately, we received this permission today. An aircraft took off at 1500 for Zabol with a delegation from Kabul. They will go to the site of the incident and provide all-round assistance to the passengers and crew. They will also send us any news immediately they arrive there. [end recording]

Kabul Forces Take American Photographer Prisoner

BK1906152089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1509 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 19 (AFP)—An American freelance photographer on assignment for LIFE magazine, Tony O'Brien, was taken prisoner near Kabul on June 14 by Afghan Government soldiers, a U.S. diplomatic source here said Monday.

The U.S. Embassy here said it had received reports about Mr. O'Brien's capture from "several journalists," but it had so far not yet been able to obtain an "independent confirmation" of the news.

Hikmatyar's Condition for Soviet POWs' Release

BK1906161489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the foreign minister of the interim government of Afghan mujahidin, has said that all the Soviet prisoners of war [POW's] will be released if Moscow informs them [the mujahidin interim government] of the whereabouts of 40,000 missing Afghan mujahidin and provides the formula [for defusing] the hundreds of thousands of mines laid in Afghanistan by the Soviet Army. He was giving his views about the Soviet delegation which has arrived in Islamabad to seek the release of Soviet POW's. He said the mujahidin welcomed the delegation and will invite it to visit the refugee camps so that they can see the magnitude of the atrocities committed against the Afghan people by the Soviet Army and its agents.

Mujahidin Capture District in Kabul Province

BK1906161789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have launched a major offensive in Kabul Province, capturing the district of Mir Bacheh Kowt. They have also captured 30 Kabul soldiers, 15 tanks, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

There are also reports of fierce clashes between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in the Jalalabad area where the mujahidin killed 8 Kabul soldiers and wounded 20 others. A Kabul regime fighter aircraft was also shot down near (Dorandah) Dam, west of Jalalabad.

Fierce fighting is also continuing around the city and airfield of Qandahar and near Charikar, the headquarters of Parvan Province.

Meanwhile, the Kabul regime is reported to have transferred chemical weapons, including multibarrel rocket launchers with a range of 2 miles, to areas of Jalalabad, Khowst, and Qandahar where fighting is raging in a bid to halt the advances of mujahidin.

Mujahidin Reportedly Liberate Hoseyn Kut Region

BK2006024289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] According to a report from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have liberated the Hoseyn Kut region, north of Kabul, after a fierce battle with the Kabul regime troops. A large number of Kabul regime troops were killed and six of them arrested during the operation. The mujahidin also captured eight tanks and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Another report says that an MiG-27 aircraft of the Kabul regime which was carrying out bombing raids on mujahidin positions on the outskirts of Khowst was shot down.

Kabul Forces Intensify Bombing, Missile Attacks

BK1906162889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 19 (AFP)—Afghan government forces have intensified aerial bombing and missile raids against mujahidin rebel positions in recent days, leaving scores of people injured or dead, sources close to the Afghan resistance said here Monday.

The attacks have been concentrated in areas surrounding the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, which is held by Afghan Government troops but surrounded by rebel forces.

In the village of Sarshahi, about 30 kilometers (18 miles) southeast of Jalalabad, at least one person was killed and another 70 civilians—most of them women and children—were injured Sunday in an air raid, the sources said.

In all, Afghan Government forces have carried out 172 bombing raids and have fired 50 Soviet-made Scud missiles from Kabul on surrounding mujahidin positions since Saturday, the sources added.

Rebel forces have retaliated by firing a dozen rockets into Jalalabad, causing a number of fires. The sources could provide no figure on casualties resulting from the rebel attacks. But they said that at least 60 people had been killed or injured in three separate areas surrounding Jalalabad in the past three days.

Experts here said Kabul had decided to intensify bombing and missile raids in support of Afghan Government ground forces which have met strong resistance in their bid to recapture mujahidin positions around Jalalabad. The bombing and missile raids could be a prelude to a government offensive in the near future, they added.

Although they secured positions surrounding the city three months ago, the mujahidin have so far failed to capture Jalalabad due to what analysts said was poor coordination between the various rebel units.

The rebels had made Jalalabad their main target following the pullout of Soviet troops from Afghanistan on February 15.

BAKHTAR Details Recent Operations

LD1806100389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0450 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 17, BAKHTAR—Contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] concentrated in Nangarhar Province inflicted heavy blows on the joint forces of the eneny during the past 24 hours, an authorised military source said.

The enemy while launching heavy attacks on the residential areas of Jalalabad resorted to its futile and fruitless aggression in the outskirt of Jalalabad. The units of the Armed Forces retaliated and the enemy after sustaining remarkable losses retreated.

As a result of the attack of enemy, civilians including two servicemen were killed. Nine others including 3 servicemen wounded, 6 houses and 4 shops demolished.

As a result of the air strikes and artillery fire of the Armed Forces, 25 enemies were killed and 29 others wouded in that city, a Saudi Wahhabi and 3 extremists ringleaders are also included among those killed. Besides, large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy destroyed.

During another mopping up operations in Khowst grand district, 37 enemies were killed and 16 others wounded.

According to another report as a result of fire of the extremists supported by Pakistan 3 civilians were injured in Herat Province. In a mopping up operation of the Armed Forces of the RA in Herat, a wireless set, five boxes of bullets and 25 anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines fell at the hand of the Armed Forces.

The armed extremists backed by Pakistan and Saudi Arabian Wahhabis who were robbing properties of the people in Shahr-e Safa area of Qandahar Province were recently crushed by the Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar Province.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that twenty five extremists were killed during the mopping up operations carried out by the Armed Forces in that area. Nine Pakistani militarists and three Saudi Arabian advisors were among those killed. 'Abdul Karim, a ringleader attached to Gulbuddin group along with eight other extremists surrendered along with their arms to the Armed Forces as well.

Likewise, in the said operations a large amount of arms and munitions of the enemy were either destroyed or fell at the hands of the Armed Forces.

The report adds that at present Qandahar-Shahr-e Safa road is open for traffic.

A number of the responsibles [as received] of the Scud detachment of the General Command of the special guard who have shown merit in their duties were honoured here today. A military correspondent of BIA reported that in a function which was held on the occasion, commander of the special guard spoke on grave duties and responsibilities of the members of that command in relation to the repulsion of the attacks of the Pakistani militarymen, Saudi Wahhabis and extremists supported by Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan. He appreciated effective activities of that detachment as well.

Besides, organ of the Ministry of State Security prevented a satanic plan of the extremists supported by Pakistan here on Friday.

Our military correspondent reported that, 16 ground-to-ground rockets which were mounted in the Botkhak area of Kabul for attacks on Kabul city were timely discovered and confiscated.

Armed Forces Sources on 18 Jun Military Situation

LD1906061189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0422 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 18 BAKHTAR—Authoritative sources of the Armed Forces report that in a mopping up operation carried out by the Armed forces in the eastern areas of Jalalabad city, Nangarhar Province, 27 extremists were killed and 23 injured. Meanwhile, the joint forces of the enemy, supported by Army Corp 11 of Pakistan, opened heavy fire on residential areas as a result of which four persons including women and children were killed and eleven injured including six servicemen.

The enemies also opened fire against the related aeas of Qandahar Province which did not have human casualty. In a retaliatory action by the armed forces, seventeen armed extremists were killed in Khowst grand district and nine injured. In another military operation carried out in the related areas of Baghlan Province, four extremists wre crushed and some injured. In this operation, two servicemen were killed and one was injured.

The situation in other provinces is calm and the highways are open to traffic.

16 Missiles Discovered Near Kabul City

LD1606195789 Kabul in Pashto to Europe
1730 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Yesterday the alert organs of the Ministry of State Security discovered in time a sinister plan by the extremists supported by Pakistan and prevented the occurance of an unfortunate incident in Kabul city.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that 16 surface-to-surface missiles which had been placed in some regions of Budkhak in readiness for firing on to residential areas of Kabul city by the criminal extremists, were discovered and the plot was foiled.

India

Foreign Office Spokesman on Siachen Talks

BK1906145389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] An official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the joint statement issued at Islamabad at the end of talks between the defense secretaries of India and Pakistan indicates that there is an agreement on approach and the exploration of proposals for an early settlement of the Siachen issue. The Army authorities of both sides have been entrusted with the responsibility of examining the proposals and putting up the same to the respective governments.

The spokesman made this comment when his attention was drawn by newsmen to the statement of Pakistan's foreign secretary, Dr Humayun Khan in Islamabad yesterday.

When asked to clarify whether an agreement had been reached with Pakistan during the defense secretary's meeting on withdrawal of troops by both countries in the Siachen area to the pre-1972 position, as claimed by

Pakistan's foreign secretary, the spokesman said that there was no such indication by any such agreement in the joint press statement issued at the end of the talks.

Expressing surprise over the statement, the spokesman said that the Pakistan foreign secretary was not present at the discussions held by the defense secretaries. Since the Indian foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, had not participated in the discussions, he did not react to the statement by the Pakistan foreign secretary at the press conference.

'Official Spokesman's Statement'

BK1906151389 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1432 GMT 19 Jun 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Siachen"—ISI headline]

[Text] To a question about the authenticity of reports quoting the Pakistan foreign secretary that India and Pakistan have agreed to pull back to the pre-2 July 1972 positions of administrative control in Siachen, the spokesman gave the following clarifications:

"I would like to draw your attention once again to the joint press release issued in Rawalpindi on 17 June 1989, in particular to the following portion of this press release which I quote: 'The discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Both sides discussed specific proposals aiming at an early settlement of the Siachen issue in accordance with the Simla agreement. There was agreement by both sides to work towards a comprehensive settlement, based on redeployment of forces to reduce the chances of conflict, avoidance of the use of force and the determination of future positions on the ground to ensure, so as to confirm with the Simla agreement and to authorities durable peace in the Siachen area. The Army They agree that after an in-depth examination of such proposals the next round of talks between the defence secretaries will be held at New Delhi in the near future.'"

The above statement was made by the defence secretaries joint and indicates that there is an agreement on approach and authorities of both sides have been charged with the responsibility of examining the question and putting up proposals to the respective governments.

When asked to the fact that the news reports quote the Pakistani foreign secretary, the spokesman clarified that the Pakistani foreign secretary was not present at the said talks. The joint press statement was drafted by the two defence secretaries and "I think we should go by that."

When asked to clarify what the situation in Siachen had been before 1972, the spokesman said "I have nothing further to clarify on that. This matter is being looked into by both Army commanders and it would be most accurate to go at present by the joint press statement. The statement indicates an agreed time frame and also carries the assurance that the two defence secretaries will meet again at Delhi, in the near future." He drew attention to the fact that there is absolutely no indication of any agreement or disagreement regarding pre-1972 positions in Siachen, in the joint press statement.

The spokesman refused to comment when one correspondent asked whether the Pakistani foreign secretary was indulging in disinformation. He also did not agree with a correspondent's suggestion that the Simla agreement would go the way of the Sri Lankan accord and would not be binding on both countries. The spokesman clarified that both governments were set on resolving their problems through a process of negotiation and friendship.

Pakistan Reportedly Trains Kashmir Subversives

BK1806125689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that the action plan of the Center has helped in controlling terrorism in the state effectively. He was talking to a group of visiting newsmen from Delhi in Srinagar. The action plan was initiated in the wake of recent violent incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Abdullah said as a result of the security measures, more than 300 people, including over 80 Pakistan-trained persons, have been taken into custody. He regretted that training of the Indian youth in subversive activities is still continuing across the border in the Pakistan-occupied territory. Dr Abdullah said some antinational elements in the state are misguiding the unemployed youth. However, he said, the situation has been brought under control after intensified BSF [Border Security Force] patrolling along the border and the training of the state police to deal with terrorists.

All India Radio's special correspondent, S. Srinivasan, reports after going around to some places in the state that the tourist season is in full swing.

Gandhi Declines To Comment on Sri Lanka Pullout

BK1906122789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, June 19 (AFP)—India declined to comment Monday on reports that Sri Lanka planned to go the United Nations to complain against New Delhi's refusal to pull out its troops from the island nation by July 29.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said here that that his government offered no comment on reports from Colombo which said Sri Lanka hoped to raise the subject in the U.N. Security Council.

"Let us find out what they are doing. I don't want to respond to media reports," Mr Gandhi told reporters at the presidential palace soon after the swearing-in of Justice E.S. Venkataramaiah as the chief justice of India.

"We will fulfill our obligations (under the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord)," he said, adding: "the agreement...requires India to look after the interests of Tamils and we have to guarantee it (the accord)." [passage omitted]

In Madras, southern India, a prominent Communist MP [Member of Parliament] Monday asked New Delhi to "equip and train people" in Sri Lanka's northeast for their "self-defence" before withdrawing the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Indrajit Gupta of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) said the Indian troops should not leave Sri Lanka "immediately" as demanded by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

But he told PTI that the IPKF could not "remain there indefinitely as prolonged stay of any army in a foreign country would become counter-productive."

Mr Gupta said Mr Gandhi would not withdraw the IPKF now because the premier felt it would "adversely affect" his Congress (I) Party's prospects in southern Tamil Nadu state during general elections due in December. [passage omitted]

Editorial Supports Withdrawal

BK1706152989 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 3 Jun 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Welcome Disengagement"]

[Text] There is nothing wrong or sudden in President Premadasa asking for the withdrawal of all the Indian troops from Sri Lanka by the second anniversary of the Indo-Sri Lankan Peace Accord on July 29. The process had been set in motion six months ago when Mr Premadasa took over. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has also indicated an acceleration of the return of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]. Mentioning a deadline as Mr Premadasa has now done cannot in these circumstances be deemed as abrupt as some observers have made out. He has frankly explained why he has chosen July 29 as the deadline. Sri Lanka will be host to the SAARC [South Asian Assocation of Regional Cooperation] summit due to be held in November and it would not be consistent with his country's self-respect if, at that time, foreign troops remain on its soil. The topic came up at a religious ceremony on the outskirts of Colombo. In Sri Lankan conditions, it is natural that the president's presence and speech on such an occasion should acquire a political tone. Since the IPKF's role has been the most hotly discussed issue in recent months, President Premadasa acted like any politicla leader, keen to strike a sympathetic chord among his people, and dwelt on the completion of the withdrawal of the IPKF by a specific date. This cannot, of course, be a rigid deadline. Possibly, there will now be discussions between the two governments on any mutually convenient date well before November.

Apart from Mr Premadasas's domestic compulsions, it will be in India's interests to bring back its troops from Sri Lanka as soon as possible. The persisting tension between Tamils and Muslims in Sammanthurai in the Eastern Province is, for instance, a warning signal against the IPKF being inexorably drawn into a kind of strife the resolution of which can be no part of its responsibility. The Sri Lankan Government wants its own trops, hitherto confined to the barracks, to join Indian patrols in preventing recurrence of clashes. The local Tamils are opposed to the Sri Lankan troops coming out. But this is not a sufficient reason why the Indian troops should be saddled with such a thankless task. It is no use quibbling over what the Indo-Sri Lankan Pact says on this. What should be pertinent is New Delhi's political judgement. And by this yardstick, it will be most unwise for Indian troops to get involved in the maintenance of law and order in any part of Sri Lanka where the ethnic issue can become explosive at the slightest provocation. The IPKF has done its main job, that of forcing the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] into negotiating with the government. How the actors in the Sri Lankan drama behave after the LTTE's armed insurgency against the government's authority has been largely countered, is their affair. The IPKF must not be pushed into the role of an arbiter in this dangerous mess.

Daily on 'Cyprus Solution'

BK2006083389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 20 (AFP)—A leading Indian newspaper Tuesday urged the government to "prepare itself for a 'Cyprus solution' in Sri Lanka, where New Delhi maintains an estimated 45,000 peacekeeping troops.

The TIMES OF INDIA also rebuked Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa for unilaterally and repeatedly demanding a pullout of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) from his country by July 29.

The TIMES said the time had come for India to persuade Sri Lankan Tamil groups "to make common cause" against the Sinhalese majority "and to offer them such assistance as they might require to safeguard their rights."

"In plain words, New Delhi should prepare itself for a 'Cyprus solution' in Sri Lanka, regardless of the costs involved," it added in an editorial unusually critical of Colombo.

Although the editorial did not elaborate on the proposal, observers here said the comment most likely referred to partitioning off the northeast portion of the island and the stationing of Indian troops there.

The TIMES said India should include the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has been fighting Indian troops in the island since October 1987, in any Cyprus-like scheme.

The English-language newspaper said although such a course of action would provoke worldwide disapproval, "Mr. Premadasa should know that it will receive enthusiastic support in India."

"And, as in the case of Cyprus, the world will sooner or later recognise the compulsions that may force India to act, putting aside its own cherished principles," it added.

Turkey's invasion of northern Cyprus in 1978 [year as recedived] was followed by the proclamation of a separate state for the island's Turkish minority which is recognised only by Ankara.

The HINDUSTAN TIMES, the largest-circulated daily here, also flayed Mr. Premadasa for pushing India into a corner by repeatedly demanding the return of the IPKF.

It said: "The president is perhaps not realising that...he is doing immense harm to the Indo-Sri Lankan relations. And this can have long-term repercussions."

The harsh editorials came a day after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi declined comment on Sri Lankan press reports that Colombo planned to raise the issue of the presence of the IPKF in the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

Venkataramiah Appointed New Chief Justice

BK1706125589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Mr Justice E.S. Venkataramiah, judge of the Supreme Court, has been appointed as the chief justice of India. Mr Justice Venkataramiah will take over on Monday [19 June] when the present Chief Justice R.S. Pathak relinquishes his office to join the International Court of Justice.

V.P. Singh Criticism of Gandhi Viewed

BK1806165489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, [former finance minister in Rajiv Gandhi's Cabinet] has criticized the Congress-I and the prime minister for leveling charges against him and his party. In a statement issued in Delhi, Mr V.P. Singh said that fictitious charges have been joined by fictitious programs with fictitious budgets and fictitious projects with real foundation stones, as he put it. Mr Singh alleged that the publicly owned media had degenerated into partisan mouthpieces.

The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr K.K. Tiwari, has strongly criticized the Janata Dal leader, Mr V.P. Singh, for making baseless charges against the prime minister. In a statement, he said the whole country is aware how the Janata Dal president had run away when challenged to repeat his charge on the floor of parliament to the acute embarrassment of his own partymen.

Mr Tiwari said Mr Singh's supreme objective is to become prime minister of India and he could go to any extent to achieve this. He said under the command of Hershman and other foreign agencies, V.P. Singh is unabashedly using mother, God, and the country as mere bargaining counters for that hallucinatory chair which will never be his.

Regarding Mr V.P. Singh's charge of misuse of electronic media, the minister said the Janata Dal leader and his friends cannot force All India Radio and Doordarshan to join them in their game of subversion and destabilization. He said Mr Singh will do well to recall the manifesto of the Janata Party in 1977 on the electronic media. He should also recall his own and his friend Mr V.C. Shukla's performance when they were in the Congress Party. Mr Tiwari said he can assure Mr Singh that the present government will never allow Mr L.K. Advani's [former Janata Party information minister] fascism to invade All India Radio and Doordarshan again.

Iran

Majlis Speaker, Delegation Depart for USSR

LD2006083589 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Majlis Speaker and Acting Armed Forces Commander in Chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani left here for Moscow at the head of high-ranking delegation, this morning.

Speaking in an interview before departure, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the significant impact of his official visit on the future of relations between the two countries, and expressed hope it will open a "new chapter in Irano-Soviet relations and in the history of the region." He described the prospect of his visit as "very good."

Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani is already in Moscow at the head of a delegation to prepare the ground for the signing of a number of agreements between the two countries.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i, Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi, a number of Majlis deputies, as well as deputy ministers from seven ministries are accompanying the speaker in the first visit by a highest ranking Iranian official to the Soviet Union since 1979.

In his interview at the airport, Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said the presence of over 50 million Muslims in the Soviet Union was a good incentive in bringing the two neighboring countries closer together. He expressed hopes improved relations between Iran and the Soviet Union would leave positive impact on the living condition of Soviet Muslims.

Earlier in the morning, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i who wished him success in his important visit.

The Iranian delegation was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, a number of other officials as well as members of the Soviet Embassy here.

Musavi in a brief interview said the speaker's visit to the Soviet Union "is very significant for the region." He added that the world had shown "particular sensitivity" towards this trip.

Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said at the Tehran Airport this morning that he had been invited to Moscow by the speakers of the Soviet parliaments two years ago.

"At that time we considered it to be rather ceremonial. Because the Afghan issue remained unsolved and the war (with Iraq) was in a state that we could not assume the Soviets were neutral. On the other hand, the internal situation in the Soviet Union was not favorable for us. For these reasons, the visit was delayed.

"But after the acceptance of the resolution (598 by Iran) and the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and following the invitation by Mr. Gorbachev, a completely new situation emerged, and we took the matter seriously. We believe that we can have good relations with our large northern neighbor."

The speaker also said Irano-Soviet ties have never been desirable deep in the history. [sentence as received] Soviet empires always had covetous and colonialistic attitudes towards Iran. Just relations did not exist between the two countries even under communist Russia, he added.

"But the situation in the region and what is happening inside the Soviet Union, and also considering the point that Iran has proved its independent policy since the victory of the Islamic revolution, all have provided the grounds for the opening of a new chapter in mutual ties and eventually in the regional history...."

Turning to mutual ties, he said draft agreements prepared by relevant ministers indicate that infrastructural projects such as dams, power stations, railways and the Caspian Sea which he said is of great importance to both countries. [sentence as received] Border exchanges, transfer of technology and sections where the Soviets enjoy prominence are also among issues of discussions.

He said the two countries could utilise many of their possibilities such as roads, marine borders, as well as oil and gas pipelines to enhance mutual ties.

Soviet Visit Previewed

LD1906153689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Excerpts] In response to the invitation extended by the Soviet leader, President Gorbachev, Hojjat-ol Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani will begin his 3-day official visit to the Soviet Union at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation tomorrow.

To pave the way for Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow, our country's minister of economic affairs and finance arrived in Moscow last night at the head of a high-ranking delegation, as the head of the Iranian side in the two country's joint economic commission.

The Majlis speaker's trip to Moscow is the most significant visit paid by an Iranian dignatary in the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution. In view of the positive developments in relations between the two neighboring countries of Iran and the Soviet Union in the course of

the past few months, this trip could be considered a turning point in our bilateral relations, leading to a bright prospect for the future of political and economic relations.

Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the USSR have enjoyed a special mutual significance—the IRI because of its delicate strategic location, as well as its position as an important political-economic force in the region and, above all, its authoritative position in the Islamic world; and the Soviet Union for being the largest country in the world and one of the world's political and economic axes on the international scene. In view of such significance, the relations between the two countries will be worthy of international attention and scrutiny. [passage omitted]

In a recent interview in which he reiterated the IRI's policy of neither east nor west, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Even though the Soviet Union has an unfavorable record of supporting Iraq and violating Afghanistan, the Mr Gorbachev's leadership has proved a positive development in the Soviet Union's policy and a basis for the improvement of relations.

The great leader of the Islamic Revolution's message to Gorbachev and also the pact are considered beneficial to the two countries' relations.

Soviet officials believe that following the exchange of messages between the leaders of the two countries, bilateral relations have entered a significant phase. In view of the improving political relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, the groundwork for remarkable economic relations between the two countries has been laid over the past few months. In the wake of the two countries' 11th Permanent Commission for Economic Cooperation of November 1988 in Moscow, followed by last month's visit by the Soviet minister of railways to Tehran, the groundwork for long-term economic contracts between the two countries was prepared.

During the visit paid by three senior Soviet economic officials to Tehran, the draft text of long-term economic, commercial, scientific and technical contracts between the two countries until the year 2000 was drawn up. During Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union, this agreement as well as a long-term contract for goods exchange are to be signed by the two sides. Among the most important contents of the long-term economic cooperation agreements between the two countries are the construction with Soviet cooperation of several electricity power-stations with a capacity of 8,000 megawatts in Iran, the annual export of up to 30 billion cubic meters of gas to the Soviet Union, in return for the technical equipment and services for industrial projects, transportation, and excavation activities in the Caspian Sea, and for increasing the production capacity of Iran's heavy industries, specifically Esfahan's steel industry.

The Iranian-Soviet long-term economic projects will play an important role in developing bilateral relations. During the recent Tehran visit of Mr Konarev, the Soviet minister of railways, he announced that the Soviet Union is ready to allocate some credits—within the framework of the bilateral agreements—toward joint projects. He cited the amount of R1.2 billion, which is the equivalent of about $2 billion.

The improvement in political and economic relations between the IRI and the USSR, especially in view of Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow, will mark new horizons, and in the creation of such horizons it is expected that the Soviet leader, while redressing past [word indistinct] will play a more active role.

Press Comments on Visit

LD2006083289 Tehran IRNA in English 0822 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow, has alarmed the West but Iran would develop ties with other countries willing to be friendly towards Tehran, a daily commented Tuesday.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES editorialized on the visit by the highest-ranking Iranian official to the Soviet Union since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The paper believed as soon as the news of the Hashemi-Rafsanjani visit was put out, Washington had "put pressure on Russia through various channels" not to get too close to Tehran.

Nevertheless, it wrote: "For planners of Iranian foreign policy it is not only the Soviet Union, important as it is, that matters. Tehran will soon by trying to work out the course of relations with many other countries of the world who have expressed their willingness to maintain and expand mutual relations at various levels."

"Even though there is a long way to go in normalization of relations with the West, events of the past two weeks have given Iranian statesmen more room for political maneuvering," the paper believed.

TEHRAN TIMES said Iran did not want to "move too fast and hastily" to improve ties with Moscow since this would contradict the country's "Neither East nor West" policy. Iran was not as isolated as two months ago, the paper noted in a reference to the return to Tehran of French and West German ambassadors.

Meanwhile the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI described Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip as significant in many aspects. One was the timing of it, taking place just two weeks after the passing away of late Imam Khomeyni. This showed "the self-confidence of the Islamic Republic's officials and the solid stability that the system enjoys," said the paper.

"This is a source of rejoice [as received] to the friends of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a great cause of disappointment to its enemies who were longing to see Iran disintegrate after the passing away of the imam."

Another significance of the trip was Irano-Soviet relations. It shows bilateral ties between the two countries, with long common borders, had reached a level which called for such a high-level visit.

But the paper added that expansion of relations with Moscow was still in primary stages but the visit would have an "immense impact" on their future course. The paper said factors which hindered flourishment of bilateral relations have now diminished among them: ending of Iraq-Iran war, end of occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet troops, banning of the communist Tudeh Party, improved Soviet attitude towards religion, and the late imam's guidelines on Irano-Soviet ties.

Velayati, Afghan Rebels Discuss Situation

LD1806190489 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—The latest developments in Afghanistan were discussed in a meeting here Sunday between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and several Afghan mujahidin leaders.

Velayati, underlining the need to continue such meetings in view of the sensitive situation in strife-torn Afghanistan's sensitive situation, noted "the Islamic Republic will carefully continue watching the events."

"Such coordinated gatherings are the beginning of a very auspicious step towards the goals of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan," he added.

Present at the meeting were leaders of the Iran-based coalition of eight Afghan groups, head of the Islamic Revolution Movement Mawlawi Mansur, head of the Islamic Alliance in Afghanistan Mawlawi Qazi and one of the leaders of the mujahidin's Islamic Alliance Qazi Amin.

In response, the visitors all agreed that unity is the only key for the mujahidin to achieve the goals of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister, along with several other high ranking officials, is to accompany Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on an official visit to Moscow which will start Tuesday.

Velayati Returns From Pakistan Visit 20 Jun

NC2006070689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, during a short visit to Pakistan, met with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. They discussed bilateral issues and the Afghanistan problem.

The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad that in his meeting with Ghulam Ishaq Khan, our foreign minister expressed gratitude for the sympathy of the Muslim people and the Government of Pakistan for the loss of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and discussed various issues.

Mr Velayati met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto yesterday afternoon. During this meeting, the Pakistani prime minister reiterated condolences on the death of the imam of the ummah and said: The Pakistani Government wants to expand its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the Afghanistan problem, she said: Both countries should strive for peace in Afghanistan. We believe that all means should be used to return peace and stability to Afghanistan. The Pakistani prime minister also said about the conflict between the Afghan groups of Muslim revolutionaries: They should show more flexibility and realism.

Our foreign minister replied: From the beginning of the Afghanistan problem, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to find a comprehensive solution to the problem and it will continue these efforts.

Our foreign minister returned to Tehran this morning. Before leaving Pakistan, he also met with two leaders of the seven-party alliance of Afghan mujahidin and discussed existing problems and the future of Afghanistan.

Mo'ayeri Says Afghan Plane Not Hijacked

LD1906175789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Mr 'Alireza Mo'ayeri, the prime minister's political deputy, announced that the crash of the Afghan airliner occurred as a result of an armed clash between the co-pilot and the person in charge of flight security. According to a Central News Unit reporter, the prime minister's political deputy, who had gone to the Zabol region at the head of a delegation of aviation specialists on behalf of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, explained the circumstances of the Afghan airliner crash in an all-media interview this evening.

Denying all rumors of hijacking, he said: On the basis of the investigations and the interviews with the injured, the pilot, and the person in charge of flight security, it has become clear that the co-pilot and the security guard, as a result of previous personal enmity, began fighting in the cockpit. The co-pilot was wounded in the shoulder by a bullet which was fired. At that moment, the security guard, without considering the lives of the other passengers, tried to open the aircraft's rear door. As a result of the atmospheric pressure inside the cabin, the aircraft went out of control and began moving toward the Iranian border. It crashed 25 km from Zabol.

Speaking about the rescue of the airliner's passengers, Mr Mo'ayeri said: Fortunately, the site of the crash was near a sand and gravel quarry in the vicinity of Zabol; with the timely arrival of people and security officials, the injured were immediately transferred to hospital.

On the casualties, he said: In view of the desert terrain and the aircraft's belly-landing, in the first moments only 4 of the aircraft's 39 [as heard] passenger lost their lives. Since then, two more people have died as a result of old age and the severity of their injuries.

On the make of the aircraft, the prime minister's deputy said: The Afghan airliner was an Antonov-26, previously a military aircraft, which was put at the disposal of the Afghan Airlines after some modifications.

Finally, Mr Mo'ayeri declared that the airliner's pilot did not ask for any kind of assistance from Zabol airport, and said: The pilot did not have the necessary suitability and capability for controlling the aircraft, nor did he have the necessary license. If the pilot had been a skilled professional, he could easily have landed at Zabol Airport.

Death Toll Rises

LD2006100889 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Zahedan, June 20, IRNA—The death toll of the Afghan airliner crash rose to six as one of the wounded, a 55 year-old man, succumbed to his wounds Sunday.

An Antonov-26 Afghan airliner with 38 people aboard crashed inside the Iranian territory Sunday.

The wounded were transferred to Khatam ol-Anbiya' hospital here on a C-130 military plane Monday night.

A five-man Afghan government delegation is to visit Zabol today to inspect the wreckage of the aircraft.

KAYHAN Views UK Position on Rushdie, Relations

LD1906090789 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 19 IRNA—The British are behaving childishly if they want to re-implement their "devilish plot" of humiliating and insulting Islam and Muslims now that Imam Khomeyni is no longer present to hush them up, said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL today.

Referring to the return to Iran of the French and West German ambassadors after four months absence, the paper said the European Economic Community (EEC) countries, except Britain were duly presented [as received] in Iran.

The EEC countries recalled their ambassadors from Tehran after Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious decree] on February 14, calling for the execution of Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born author of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses".

As it was Britain that exhibited "greater arrogance", despite the fact that the book was published there, Iran's Majlis voted for severance of relations with that country and ties were thoroughly ruptured between Iran and Britain as of March 7, 1989.

Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani later said that the only solution that existed was to strictly order to seize all copies of the book in the entire world and burn them.

Addressing worshippers at Friday prayers on March 10, 1989, Hashemi-Rafsanjani mentioned that th West was facing a dilemma. If it stopped the printing of Rushdie's novel, it would have to retreat from the claim of defending the right of free expression. On the other hand, if it wanted to allow the continued distribution of the book, it would always provoke anger from Muslims.

KAYHAN said Hashemi-Rafsanjani was right as Muslims everywhere, including Britain demonstrated their anger against Rushdie and his mentors.

The daily referred to the massive gathering in London on May 27 saying that whether it comprised "20,000 Muslims" as stated by BBC or "up to 100,000" according to eye-witness accounts, the consternation from the British Government's point of view must have been quite serious. Otherwise, it added, the British Government would never have discarded "its mask of hypocrisy" that day and ordered its police force to forcibly deprive the gathering of their "right of free expression".

It could not be a coincidence that on Sunday June 18, Salman Rushdie, duly protected by the British security forces for the past four months in some safe place, was brought out from hiding to spew some more venom against Islam, said the daily.

The paper was referring to an interview reportedly given by Rushdie after Imam Khomeyni's departure on June 3, but which the British author denied and said was an old one. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL recommended the British and other arrogant powers to carefully watch the newsreel footage of the May 27 London demonstrations against Rushdie and his infidel mentors once again.

"At least they may realise a part of the truth that Imam Khomeyni did succeed in rekindling the self-esteem of the Muslim ummah before departing from them".

The daily stressed that all those "millions and millions" wailing over his loss, in Iran and elsewhere, were aware of their obligations toward Khomeyni and Islam.

Nevertheless, said the daily, it would not be out of place to point out that the British must have gained some insight about their "futile superciliousness", or to put it plainly "their stupidity" after the arrival of the French and German ambassadors in Tehran, a clear demonstration of their pragmatism.

Khamene'i Reaffirms Khomeyni Decree on Prisoners
LD1906185789 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—The new leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today said that the May 5 decree of Imam Khomeyni calling for suspension and commutation of sentences of deserving inmates was still valid.

Khamene'i also ordered members of the board appointed by the late leader of the Islamic revolution for pardoning and commuting terms of deserving prisoners, to continue their work according to the great imam's ruling.

The new leader ordered judicial officials including head of courts and courthouses to cooperate with the board.

Endorses Khomeyni's Committee
LD1906191989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has reaffirmed and endorsed in a decree the appointment of Haj Sheykh Mohammad Mohammadi-Gilani, Haj Seyyed Mohammad Musavi-Bojnerdi, Haj Seyyed Mohammad Abtahi, and Haj Sheykh Mahdi Qazi as members of the Amnesty Committee chosen by His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his lofty soul be sanctified, according to the conditions set out in the letter written by his holiness on 5 May 1989. The text of the decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Your Excellencies Ayatollah and Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Sheykh Mohammad Mohammadi-Gilani, Haj Seyyed Mohammad Musavi Bojnerdi, Haj Seyyed Mohammad Abtahi, and Haj Sheykh Mahdi Qazi, honorable members of the Amnesty Committee, appointed by His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified.

With greetings, I hereby endorse and confirm the order issued by his holiness the imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds, with the condition set by his holiness in the letter dated 5 May 1989. Your Excellencies can carry on, as necessary, with releasing, punishing, or postponing the punishment of those who have been sentenced, just as before.

The esteemed court judges, prison officers, and other officials are obligated to carry out the necessary cooperation with that committee and its appointees. I ask the Almighty for the success of the dear gentlemen in complying with the interests of the Islamic system, and in particular the interests of those who have repented.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 18 June 1989

Amoli Gives Support, Advice to Khamene'i
LD1906185489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] By sending a cable to His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, which offered condolences on the heart-rending death of his Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his lofty soul be sanctified—Grand Ayatollah Amoli graciously endorsed the decision of the Council of Experts to appoint His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. The text of the cable is as follows:

To the honorable Ayatollah Khamene'i, may your blessings continue. The death of His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, who revived Islam and monotheism in today's world through his relentless struggle, is truly an irreparable loss for the world of Islam and Muslims. Now that the ummah is mourning this loss, the well-deserved appointment by the Council of Experts of Your Eminence, as someone who is a scholar familiar with Islam and endowed with insight, is cause for hope and comfort. I beseech Almighty God to grant you ever-increasing success. In turn, I deem it necessary to endorse Your Eminence, in implementation of the lofty instructions of Islam and leadership of the ummah, which is a highly significant and heavy burden of responsibility. I hope that through your good efforts you will justify this trust, which is put in you now, in the best possible manner. I hope that you realize that Almighty God is ever present and watching you and that you do not fear implementing the laws of true shari'a because: Verily, God will defend those who believe in him. [Koranic verse]

Your leadership has come from His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, albeit through the Council of Experts. Everything on earth passes away, except what belongs to Almighty God and everything will eventually pass to Him. [Koranic verse]

May God's peace and mercy be upon you.
[Signed] Hashem Amoli

In reply to the message from Grand Ayatollah Haj Mirza Hashem Amoli, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the IRI, sent the following message to his eminence:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Eminence Grand Ayatollah Haj Mirza Hashem Amoli, may your blessings continue. With greetings, I am grateful for Your Eminence's message on the tragic loss of the great leader and our deceased imam, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and your decisive support for the action of the Council of Experts and kind advice on the importance and seriousness of my responsibility. I beseech Almighty God to

grant me His assistance and favor so as to enable me to tolerate this burden of responsibility and move toward realization of the lofty aspirations.

Thanks to the unselfish efforts of the great nation of Iran, the flag of Islam has been hoisted and the message of the Koran has been spread in the world. In gratitude for this immense blessing, the first duty is to attach greater value to the main objective; that is, strengthening the foundations of genuine Mohammedan Islam and realization of shari'a in daily life and not missing any opportunity and possibility to reach this goal. It is hoped that divine success will be bestowed on all those who follow this path. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 29 Khordad 68 [19 June 1989]

Grand Ayatollah Araki Sets Up Secretariat
LD1906184989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] In the wake of establishment of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki's secretariat in Qom, this statement was issued by that secretariat and sent to the Central News Unit:

In the name of the exalted, and expressing condolences over the heart-rending death of the esteemed leader of the world of Islam, the innovator of the century, His Excellency Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may God bless him and keep his soul pure.

Following repeated references by the esteemed clergymen and by the dear Friday prayers leaders in the provinces in order to benefit from the blessed presence of Grand Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Ahmad Araki—may his shadow extend—we are pleased to inform you that a secretariat has been established by his eminence to answer religious questions and issues, as well as to receive religious donations. The secretariat's office is situated next to the locality of the council for consultation with Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified.

The dear gentlemen clergy and all other faithful people can contact the secretariat either directly or by telephoneing Qom 25425. Furthermore, account number 9300 at the Qom Branch of the Melli Bank has been opened for payment of religious donations and alms.

Ahmad Khomeyni Appoints Donations Official
LD1806181489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni has appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Mohammad Hashemi, a member of the imam's office, as the official in charge of financial affairs and public donations of the holy shrine of Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds. The text of the order is as follows:

Your Excellency Haj Seyyed Mohammad Hashemi, may your blessings continue. I appoint you to be the official in charge of financial affairs and public donations of the holy shrine of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. God willing, by taking the necessary care and through cooperation with the relevant officials, you will succeed in performing this crucial task. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Ahmad Khomeyni
[Dated] 26 Khordad 1368 [18 June 1989]

Ahmad Khomeyni Receives Jamaran Mourners
LD1906115189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Workers of the Tehran Friday Prayers' Organization Headquarters, a group of Esfahan corps of engineers, Army security and intelligence personnel, the commander and personnel of the Karaj Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and personnel of the Ahvaz steel basij resistance base went to Jamaran today to express condolences for the heart-rending passing away of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni thanked the mourners. He said: We must all strive not to deviate from the path of the imam, which is the path of struggle against world arrogance, and of defense of the deprived and the oppressed. If we wish for the spirit of the revolution to last we must try not to exchange the values of the revolution for decadent prosperity and comfort.

He then referred to the compassionate nature of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the world's Muslims. He said: While his excellency the imam was a great crusader and stood up to pagans and hypocrites, he had a sensitive and compassionate nature. But unfortunately, that aspect of the imam's nature has not been clear to the world.

He added: The holding of the Friday prayers was an issue to which the imam of the ummah attached great importance. He told me on several occasions that if this revolution were to bear no fruit other than the holding of the Friday prayers, we will have achieved a great victory.

At the end of the ceremonies the mourners shouted slogans such as: "Support for Khamene'i is support for the imam," and declared their allegiance to the supreme jurisconsult [valeyat-ye faqih] His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Pakistan

Kabul Protest on Border Violation Rejected
BK2006021789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the protest made by the Kabul regime last Friday [16 June] alleging that a Pakistani helicopter penetrated 10 km into the Afghan territory of Badakhshan Province last Tuesday [13 June] and returned to Pakistan after overflying the Wakhan region for 10 minutes.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad yesterday and was told that the allegation was investigated and proven baseless.

Iran's Velayati, Leaders Discuss Afghanistan

BK1906153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati had meetings with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today. They exchanged views on the regional situation with special reference to Afghanistan.

During his meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad, the Iranian foreign minister discussed with him matters relating to Afghanistan in order to closely coordinate their positions before the visit of the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to Moscow, beginning tomorrow.

Expressing his appreciation for Dr Velayati's visit to Pakistan, the president recalled that Iran and Pakistan have always adopted identical positions with respect to Afghanistan and this similarity of positions will continue until a political settlement of the Afghan problem is achieved.

The Iranian foreign minister conveyed to the president the message of good wishes from President Khamene'i. Referring to the presence of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in the funeral of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Velayati said it reflected the deep bonds of friendship between the two countries.

The president warmly reciprocated the sentiments expressed by Dr Velayati and asked him to convey his good wishes to President Khamene'i.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi, the Iranian foreign minister discussed with her matters relating to the regional situation with special reference to Afghanistan. Their talks focused on the need for a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan problem, which can be acceptable to the people of that country.

The Iranian foreign minister also met with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and discussed with him matters of mutual concern with special emphasis on the regional situation.

IRNA on Velayati Visit

LD2006062389 Tehran IRNA in English 0615 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 20, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up a one-day visit here after discussing regional developments with high-ranking Pakistan officials.

Velayati is to accompany speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his trip to Moscow Tuesday [20 June].

Velayati met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Monday evening who stressed that neither Pakistan nor Iran had any ambitions in Afghanistan and were only working to support the Afghan people.

She also called for coordination between the Iran-based eight-party Afghan mujahidin coalition and the Pakistan-based seven-group mujahidin alliance.

They should be flexible and realistic in resolving their differences, she said.

Before returning to Tehran Velayati told IRNA that despite their victories, the Afghans were still facing problems in creating a government acceptable to the majority.

"Any move to form the future government must be comprehensive and all mujahidin groups must have a share," Velayati said in apparent reference to the Iran-based mujahidin who have not yet joined the mujahidin government in exile led by groups based in Pakistan.

The two factions have been trying for months to sort out their issues but have so far not reached a compromise on joint cooperation to topple Kabul's Marxist regime.

"Both the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan strongly support the establishment of a popular and independent government in Afghanistan," said Velayati.

The Pakistan premier also expressed deep sorrow on the passing away of Imam Khomeyni, describing the late imam not just the leader of Iran but a Muslim leader who worked against the enemies of Islam.

Congratulating the selection of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the new leader she hoped Iran-Pakisan relations would expand further.

The Iranian foreign minister also met with his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, discussing issues of mutual interest, especially Afghanistan.

Opposition Members on India's Weapons, Hegemony

BK1806163489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today approved 12 demands for grants worth over 2.8 billion rupees relating to Interior Ministry and its attached departments. [passage omitted]

The opposition members have moved three cut motions on their demand to discuss Indian supremacy in South and West Asian region, the government's policy on

Afghanistan issue, and the appointment of a Jewish-owned company to lobby for Pakistan. They pointed to India's frantic efforts to stockpile sophisticated arms without any apparent threat from anywhere. They said Indian efforts, particularly its recent [word indistinct] of expansion of nuclear submarine and aircraft carriers, clearly indicate its designs to establish hegemony over the South Asian region and the Indian Ocean.

Yaqub Khan on 'Hegemony'

BK1906024589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] The National Assembly approved the demands for grants amounting to more than 916 million rupees for the Foreign Ministry last night. The house rejected three cut motions presented by opposition members. Winding up the discussions on cut motions, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan categorically stated that Pakistan has not surrendered to Indian hegemony, as has been alleged by some members. He regretted that members speaking on cut motions unjustifiably criticized the foreign policy and failed to present any appropriate alternative proposal. The foreign minister assured the house that Pakistan is fully aware of India's designs to establish hegemony, and it is taking appropriate steps to face this chalienge.

He said there is no doubt that there has been a massive increase in the Indian Armed Forces, with a $10 billion defense budget allocated for this purpose. This has caused concern not only in Pakistan but in regional countries and a number of countries elsewhere in the world. Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has categorically expressed her concern during high-level talks with various leaders during the last few months, the foreign minister said.

Referring to different perceptions about Pakistan's relations with India, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the correct approach is adopting the path of moderation instead of a path of confrontation and hostility or accepting the hegemony. In this context, it is necessary to maintain an equilibrium so as to protect Pakistan's national interests and regional peace. He said that governments all over the world have appreciated the way Pakistan dealt with complicated problems and faced various difficult situations to achieve this equilibrium.

The foreign minister also expressed his views on Pakistan's role as the chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and its relations with the United States.

Bhutto Interviewed on U.S., Afghanistan

BK2006031889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that she wants to forge Pakistan's new links with the Islamic states. She expressed this in an interview with SAUDI GAZETTE.

The prime minister said she also wants to promote relations with the United States which remained dominated by the Afghanistan problem during the Zia regime. Ms Benazir Bhutto added that Pakistan's relations with the United States are above and beyond the simple question of Afghanistan. We have identical views on regional and important international issues and share identical concern on issues of human rights, narcotics control, and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said her government fully supports a political solution of the Afghan problem and wishes to see a broad-based government in Kabul.

Foreign Secretary Departs for PRC 20 Jun

BK2006022989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Secretary Dr Humayun Khan will depart on a 4-day official visit to China today for annual consultations. During his visit he will exchange views with Chinese officials on regional and world issues including matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Sri Lanka

Government 'Compelled' To Reintroduce Laws

BK2006095689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Colombo, June 20 (AFP)—Government MP's [Members of Parliament] approved clamping tough emergency laws which give sweeping powers to security forces in the wake of strikes by anti-government militants, an official statement here said Tuesday [20 June].

The government was "reluctantly compelled" to reintroduce extraordinary laws giving wide powers to troops to arrest and detain suspects following reports that rebels were planning to disrupt normal life, the statement said.

It did not say from when the tough laws would be effective, but official sources said it will come into force from midnight (1830 GMT) Tuesday.

The statement quoted Foreign Minister and Junior Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne telling ruling party MP's Tuesday morning that 1,705 people had died since the government lifted emergency rule in January.

Tuesday's meeting of United National Party (UNP) MP's was chaired by President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who lifted the emergency which had been in force since May 1983 immediately after he assumed office in January.

Mr. Wijeratne said since January some 1,800 political prisoners had been freed in a bid to allow rebels to join talks with the government, but there had been no response from them.

Mr. Wijeratne said it was "clear that there are plans to disrupt normal life, attack innocent people maintaining essential services, destroy resources and cripple the economy."

"The government is reluctantly compelled to bring back the emergency to maintain essential public services, maintain law and order and provide security to the people," Mr. Wijeratne said.

He said opposition leader and former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike had asked him why the government was not using emergency powers to maintain law and order.

The government announcement came as a bus strike sponsored by the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) dragged into its eighth straight day, crippling public transport, and was joined by port workers. Attendance in schools, offices and banks dropped sharply and offices closed earlier than usual, officials said.

JVP activists sabotaged rail tracks, derailed an office train Tuesday and attacked dozens of privately-owned buses, torching most of them and sending the rest off the road since last Monday. There were no casualties.

Sources close to the rebels said workers from other sectors too may join in the trade union action from about Thursday in sympathy with the striking bus crews.

The Sinhalese militant group is opposed to the government and has been continuing a violent campaign to seize power. In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

2 Tamil Groups Criticize LTTE Statement

BK1806161889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] and Eelam National Democratic Front [ENDLF] have described yesterday's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's [LTTE's] statement as a conspiracy to discredit India and the democratic parties in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. The general-secretary of the EPRLF, Mr Padmanabha, said in Trincomalee today it is now clear that the LTTE would indulge in violent acts and would blame the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] to create a rift between Indian and Sri Lankan people.

The ENDLF general-secretary, Mr R.S. Ganeshekharan, said PKF is committed to stay in Sri Lanka till the security of the Tamils is ensured.

Indian Shot by Unidentified Gunman 16 Jun

BK1706145189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a businessman of Indian origin was shot at and injured by an unidentified gunman yesterday. According to the security officials the man, identified as Mr Srinivasan, sustained a minor injury when he was fired upon at his hardware shop in North Colombo.

This is the first attack on a person of Indian origin since the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] launched the anti-Indian campaign on Wednesday.

Sinhalese Rebels Destroy Police Jeep, Kill 8

BK2006062489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Text] Colombo, June 20 (AFP)—Sinhalese rebels exploded a landmine under a police jeep in northwestern Sri Lanka killing eight people, including a senior officer and his two children, a military official here said Tuesday [20 June].

Activists of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) ambushed the vehicle as it passed through Pothuhera village late Monday, the official said.

The senior officer in charge of Polgahawela police station, W. M. Nayakaratne and his son and daughter, died instantly in the attack, the worst against police in recent months, he said.

The attack came as a JVP sponsored bus strike crippling public transport moved into its eighth day without a settlement. Attendance in schools, offices and banks had dropped sharply, officials said.

JVP activists had attacked dozens of privately-owned buses and torched most of them sending private coaches off the road. Employees of the state-run Central Transport Board are demanding higher wages.

Sources close to the rebels said workers in other industries may join the trade union action from Thursday in sympathy with the striking bus crews.

The Sinhalese militant group is opposed to the government and has been continuing a violent campaign to

seize power. In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

LTTE Reports 4,500 Youths Abducted

BK1906113189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] says 4,500 youths have been rounded up in the north and the east and taken by force during the last 3 days. It said that most of them had been school-going teenage boys.

In a statement the LTTE further said that these mass arrests of the youths against the wishes of the recruits and their parents had caused anxiety and panic among the civilian population. The LTTE says that they have been abducted by certain rival groups in a bid to crack down LTTE cadres.